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WEATHER: Cold and windy

40p (IR 45P)



Essay

Tory Lords a-leaping



The Tabloid

Suzanne Moore on sexual de-selection



The Tabloid

Bridget Jones: Chocolate and the single girl

Britain's would-be Nazi queen

Steve Beggan and John Crossland

Wallis Simpson, the woman for whom Edward VIII abdicated, conducted secret negotiations with the Nazis in order to have herself installed as Queen of England "at any price", according to secret government papers released yesterday.

The Public Record Office documents confirm for the first time what historians have long suspected - that Edward, the Duke of Windsor, was a firm Nazi sympathiser and his American wife was a malign influence.

A memorandum released by the Foreign Office, 60 years after the abdication, provides the

most startling evidence yet of the Windsors' willingness to collaborate with Hitler.

The couple had left Britain for neutral Portugal, but there were government concerns throughout the summer of 1940 that the Nazis might take Edward - by force or persuasion - with the intention of installing him as a puppet king in the event of an invasion.

The latest evidence suggests that force, at least on the part of the duchess, might not have been necessary. Dated 7 July 1940, it comes in the form of a memorandum from an informant inside occupied Czechoslovakia to Sir Alexander Cadogan, permanent secretary at the Foreign Office.

It says: "A new source in close touch with Von Neurath's [the German protector of Bohemia's] entourage in Prague has reported that the Germans expect assistance from the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, the latter desiring at any price to become Queen. The Germans have been negotiating with her since June 27."

"The status quo in England expect an understanding to form an anti-Russian alliance."

"The German purpose to form an opposition government with the Duke of Windsor, having first changed public opinion by propaganda. The Germans think King George will abdicate during the attack on London."

Royal historians were not surprised by the contents of many of yesterday's papers - particularly those once again demonstrating the duke's pro-Nazi sympathies and his embarrassing comments and behaviour after being set to act as Governor of the Bahamas in 1940. But the confirmation of Wallis Simpson's role in the affair was regarded as significant.

"This dots the i's and crosses the t's," said Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of *Burke's Peerage*.

"She was always regarded as bad news, particularly by the Americans. Roosevelt was always worried about Edward's Nazi leanings and considered

her the best thing that ever happened - she stopped him having to deal with a pro-Nazi king."

The revelations also go some way to explaining the Queen Mother's life-long loathing of the duchess.

There are many more references, however, to the duke's aspirations and to his Nazi leanings.

One intelligence report from a Spaniard, Count Nava de Tajo, to British diplomats said that the duke believed there could be a revolution in Britain, resulting in the abdication of King George VI. He then hoped that a subsequent Labour government would invite him back to take the throne.

Later, a senior Foreign Office specialist covering America wrote to Sir David Douglas-Scott, assistant under-secretary of state, complaining about an interview the duke had given to an American newspaper arguing against US involvement in the war.

Clearly furious, he concludes: "I propose that he now be told of the harm that he has done, and strictly prohibited from giving any more interviews at all without having his texts vetted and authorised at home."

[This] may help to correct the gaffe of sending him to this post. It - or any post near the USA - should have been the last chosen."

Duke and the Nazis, page 6



Nazi collaborator: Wallis Simpson negotiated with the Germans

Ministers fear maize breakout

Ian Burrell

Ministers have been warned that genetically-altered American corn is to enter the British food chain despite government safety objections.

Briefings prepared for ministers, and seen by *The Independent*, warn that the imports pose a risk to health. In a memo to John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Dr William Parish, of the DoE's Chemicals and Biotechnology Division, warned: "[The maize] will be imported shortly despite the fact that it is not authorised in an unprocessed form, and that the UK objected to proposals to

whether any particular shipment contains GM maize."

The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF) has objected to the GM corn on the grounds that it could compromise treatment of diseases in animals and humans.

The modified corn has been manipulated to be tolerant to herbicide and to poison insects which eat it, but it also contains a gene which is resistant to Ampicillin antibiotics.

There is concern at MAFF that if the GM maize was used in animal feeds it could lead to drug-resistant bacteria forming in the digestive system of livestock, compromising disease treatment in animals and humans.

Next week Mr Gummer will attend a meeting of the EC Environment Council at which permission for marketing the GM maize will be discussed. The council will consider research undertaken by the EC Scientific Committee on Food, the Scientific Committee on Animal Nutrition and the Scientific Committee for Pesticides. Britain must abide by the council's decision.

Ciba-Geigy, the company which developed the genetically-modified maize seeds, is confident it will get approval to market the product.

Daniel Bloocpain, world-wide Head of Ciba Seeds, said: "We agree with the Commission that no efforts should be spared in order to ensure that our product can be widely accepted and be met with confidence by the public."

When the GM maize is processed for human consumption, it is believed to be safe.

However, MAFF asked the Laboratory of the Government Chemist to see if any of the DNA in the modified product would remain after processing.

The briefing states: "It appears that fragments can survive and MAFF are now seeking the views of independent experts... about whether this changes their view on the risk of processed maize."



authorise it." He added: "Given that the UK objected to the unrestricted marketing of genetically-modified (GM) maize, there is bound to be concern that the imported maize gluten feed represents a risk to human health and safety to the environment."

The new maize - known as Genetech Corn - is already being cultivated in America and government sources said it could be done to keep it out.

The DoE memo warns: "The UK has no control over the mixing of GM and non-GM maize in the USA. In practice, it is not possible to identify nor separate the GM maize once it arrives in the UK as a bulk commodity. Therefore, no one will know

The next Miss Australia might just be a bloke



Beauty and the Bruce: Political correctness took a decisive turn yesterday when Brad Rodgers took his place with the other finalists in the Miss Australia contest. Attacks on the contest led to the beauty aspect being ditched in favour of other criteria including raising charity funds. This allows Mr Rodgers to qualify after he raised A\$100,000 for the Spastics Society

Jewish civil war feared by Israelis

Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

As hostility increases between secular and religious Israelis, a poll indicates that 47 per cent of Jews believe, with differing degrees of certainty, that the polarisation of their society may lead to a Jewish civil war.

According to a poll of 1,025 Jewish Israelis carried out by the Geocartographic Institute, it is secular Jews who feel under greatest threat. Some 51 per cent of them believe that there will be a civil war, compared to 38 per cent of religious Jews. Of the believers in a civil war, 30 per cent think it inevitable, 40 per cent probable and 24 per cent possible.

The problem is far more complicated than a simple division between secular and religious, between the fifth of the population which never goes to the synagogue and those who go every day. The melting-pot which was intended to produce a single Israeli identity never entirely worked. In addition to the Israeli Arabs, there are five distinct Jewish communities in Israel, each with its own interests and institutions.

These are the ultra-orthodox, the religious nationalists, the Sephardi Jews, the Russian immigrants and the secular Jews. The members of each community are usually easily identifiable in the street.

The ultra-orthodox sport their black suits, and the religious nationalists - a coherent community with their separate educational system and university - their skullcaps. The 600,000 Russian immigrants are not difficult to identify, nor

are the Sephardi Jews, whose parents or grandparents came from the Middle East and whose absorption has only been partly successful.

One of the surprises of the last election was the success of their political party, Shas. Secular Israelis, highly educated, affluent, of European origin and conscious of their status as founders of the state, have tended to underestimate the strength of these other sub-cultures. Labour, the party of the

left-wing ally, Meretz, was defeated by one in coalition with the religious parties.

The assassination last year of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, at a peace rally in Tel Aviv also gave many secular Jews a sense that the religious nationalist right does not play by democratic rules.

This makes it more difficult for a right-wing government to overcome cleavages within Israeli society by appeals to national solidarity.

Always present within Israeli society, these stresses are much greater today. For the first time, in May, the prime minister and the Knesset were elected separately. Political fragmentation has grown.

The large number of polls - such as that by the Geocartographic Institute on the likelihood of civil war - assessing the strength of Jewish solidarity and the degree of animosity between groups is itself a sign of nervousness. In Jerusalem, for instance, 40 per cent of secular Jews say they want to leave the city because of conflicts with the ultra-orthodox.

Short of armed conflict with the Palestinians, the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is probably agile enough to keep the conflict between secular and religious from boiling over. Despite the big gains of the religious communities in politics, education and their increasing role in the army, there are some signs of cultural counter-attack against the super-heated religious nationalism and reliance on armed strength alone to which Mr Netanyahu sometimes appeals.

Bomb on Paris train kills two

MARY DEJEVSKY Paris

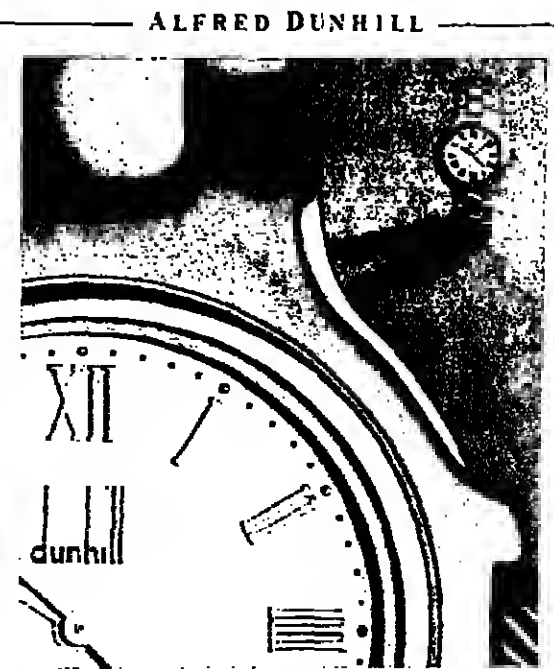
A big explosion rocked a central Paris underground station at rushhour last night, killing two people, and injuring 51. Twelve people were seriously hurt and three were said to be in a critical state.

The French Prime Minister, Alain Juppe, who arrived at the scene shortly afterwards, confirmed that the explosion was caused by a bomb and immediately invoked the emergency security plan, Vigipirate, which was applied during the terrorist attacks in the summer of 1995. Justice sources said the explosive device was stored in a 15kg (33 lb) gas canister, similar to those used by Algerian Muslim fundamentalists in bombings last year.

The bomb exploded at 1805 in the second carriage of a suburban underground train as it arrived at the Port Royale station not far from Montparnasse. Eyewitnesses said that the train was still moving when the bomb went off and that "an incredible fire" broke out. Dozens of ambulances and fire engines were on the scene within minutes, the wailing of their sirens audible across central Paris.

Port Royale is on the same B line of the suburban rail network, the RER, as Saint-Michel station, where a bomb attack took place in 1995, and only two stops away.

Yesterday's bomb comes within days of Algeria's referendum in which Algerians apparently voted by a large majority for the country's new constitution which outlaws fundamentalist religious groups.



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Major firm on EMU

The Prime Minister yesterday firmly nailed reports that he was prepared to jettison the agreed Cabinet line on the European single currency. Page 2

Food bug lawsuit

Seven children are suing the Government and other organisations after being infected by the food poisoning bug which has killed six in Scotland. Their families say the Government failed to warn of the dangers of the bacterium E-coli 0157. Page 2



CONTENTS

The Broadsheet	20-23
Business & City	20-23
Comment	15-17
Foreign News	10-14
Health	18
Home News	2-9
Law Report	15
Leading Articles	15
Letters	15
Obituaries	18
Shares	22
Sport	24-28
Unit Trusts	19
The Tabloid	6-7
Arts	23
Arts Reviews	23
Bridget Jones	3
Crossword	16
Finance	20
Law	24, 25
Living	4, 5
TV & Radio	26, 27
Travel	11
Weather	26

news

significant shorts

Channel Tunnel to reopen

Eurotunnel was last night given permission to resume passenger services, 15 days after fire severely damaged a 600-metre stretch of the Channel Tunnel.

The go-ahead by the Anglo-French Intergovernmental Commission, after advice from the tunnel safety authority, means Eurostar trains from Waterloo and car and coach shuttle services could start almost immediately. The welcome news for the debt-ridden company came two days after it staged a security drill to restore confidence in emergency procedures.

However, the Conservative MP Roger Gale said he still had "considerable lingering anxieties" at the re-opening. The safety authority said after meeting in London that it was satisfied "that the necessary safety equipment is available and that revised operating and emergency procedures are in place".

The Pope greets Carey

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, arrived in Rome for three days of talks at the Vatican. The talks will be "very tough and interesting" according to a member of the Archbishop's party.

Pope John Paul II, greeting Dr Carey in his library, said: "Even in our sad separation, Anglicans and Catholics have not ceased to be brothers and sisters in the one Lord." Dr Carey told the Pope: "We cannot undo overnight doctrinal differences and the bitterness that have resulted from the legacy of history. But we are able to confront them as fellow Christians." *Andrew Brown*

Odd-job man is cleared

Mark Weston, 21, an odd-job man, was cleared at Oxford Crown Court of murdering his near neighbour Vikki Thompson, who was bludgeoned to death while walking her dog near Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire.

Treasury burns

The Treasury was evacuated after fire broke out in the basement. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary, was among 1,500 people forced to wait outside while the blaze, caused by electrical equipment, was extinguished.

Pay ruling bonanza for women

Any female worker who was paid less than a man who succeeds her can claim compensation under equal pay laws, the Employment Appeal Tribunal has decided.

Josanne Connaughton, director of music at St. Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield, claimed equal pay with a man who succeeded her. Ms Connaughton's basic salary was £11,138, with a travel allowance of £1,145, while her successor was appointed on £20,000. The diocese of Hallam agreed to pay her £10,000 compensation and promised to take account of guidance from the Equal Opportunities Commission in future. *Barrie Clement*

Rothschild leaves £18m

Amschel Rothschild, the financier and heir to one of the world's most powerful banking dynasties, left more than £18m. Mr Rothschild, 41, who had three children, was found hanged in a Paris hotel bathroom in July. He left most of his estate to relatives.

Hospitals will axe hundreds

Hundreds of nurses and other health workers in south-west London are expecting redundancy notices over the Christmas holidays in anticipation of spending cuts of up to £22m, according to the public service union Unison. The two health authorities involved cover Merton, Sutton, Wandsworth, Kingston and Richmond. *Barrie Clement*

Woman wins top police post

A woman has been appointed chief constable of Wiltshire police. Elizabeth Neville, deputy chief constable in Northamptonshire, will be Britain's second woman chief constable.

Homes blow for the poor

Budget cuts mean the Government will fail to meet its target on social housing for the year, it was claimed. The National Housing Federation said that the number of new homes built annually would fall from 60,000 to a maximum of 45,000 by 2,000, thanks in part to a £356m Budget cut in funding for housing associations. *Michael Streeter*

How come they got it so wrong over Europe?

Anthony Bevins on what the papers didn't say

Major to signal UK will not join first wave of Emu

Wrong: Yesterday's Financial Times

MAJOR LETS CLARKE FUME

Wrong: Yesterday's Daily Mail

Major plans to hold out against euro

Wrong: Monday's Daily Telegraph

Clarke's Euro armlock on Major

Right: Yesterday's Independent

The Prime Minister yesterday firmly nailed reports that he was prepared to jettison the agreed Cabinet line on the European single currency.

Repeated reports in several newspapers suggested that he was about to rule Britain out of the euro for the five-year lifetime of another parliament, but then John Major said yesterday morning that such stories deserved the Booker Prize for fiction. In contrast, *The Independent* reported yesterday that Mr Major would not be able to change the policy.

That was underscored in two Commons answers to Tony Blair. The Prime Minister definitively restated government policy - and dashed the raised hopes of Tory Euro-sceptics.

The Labour leader asked whether government policy remained that, "at the next election you will not rule out the option of joining a single currency in the next parliament, and through, the next election campaign. Mr Major said: "That is our position."

That left frontbenchers and backbench MPs throughout the House to chew over the many conspiracy theories that may or may not lie behind Monday's initial *Daily Telegraph* report so

forthrightly repudiated by Mr Major - until the next time a Euro-sceptic newspaper repeats the same story.

Whether the report was planned by Number 10, Conservative Central Office, a rogue Cabinet Minister - or, as one Tory source said only half in jest last night, Labour campaign manager Peter Mandelson, the result was to firm up the

be known until the Amsterdam summit in June - after the next election.

In an unusual Commons statement on Monday's meeting of finance ministers, in Brussels, Mr Clarke used the same formula that ministers have applied to Northern Ireland peace talks: "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed."

That meant that even when the whole euro package had been settled, individual countries would have an overriding right to "revisit" the deal as a whole.

Mr Heseltine and Mr Clarke said the earliest that could happen would be June. Interviewed on BBC radio's *World at One*, Mr Heseltine also said that it would defy the "national self-interest" to close off the option of joining the euro.

The agreement between the two most senior members of Mr Major's government, and the rare clarity of Mr Major's Commons answers, fuelled Tory Euro-sceptic and Labour suspicion that Mr Major had been bullied into submission, on pain of joint resignation. It also left some Labour leadership sources claiming that Mr Blair was now more sceptical about the Euro than the Tories.

FO bars funeral children

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Two grieving daughters cannot come to Britain from Ghana for their mother's funeral on Friday because their family were not close enough, a foreign-office minister has ruled.

Labour's social-services spokeswoman Harriet Harman, who was Gladys Outey's MP, made a last-minute appeal last night for a change of heart. She said it was "totally unacceptable" for decisions to be made on the basis of how fond was the relationship between mother and daughters. The Walworth Methodist Church, where Mrs Outey sang in the choir, has also urged the minister to change his mind.

Ms Outey's family say she telephoned her daughters and wrote to them regularly after she came here in 1990, but officials who interviewed them in Ghana concluded that their contact had been "limited".

In a letter to Ms Harman, Dr Liam Fox, the under-secretary of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that Doreen, 19, and Grace, 23, failed to convince officials in Accra that they only wanted to come to Britain for the funeral.

"The young ladies' limited contact with, and knowledge of, their mother was striking and relevant," he said. "I am in no doubt whatsoever about the importance in a close family of children being able to attend a parent's funeral. However, I must balance this against my responsibility to ensure that the immigration rules are fully upheld."

A spokeswoman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said there had been other reasons for the refusal. Ms Outey, who worked as a cleaner at Waterloo Station, had been refused leave to remain in Britain in July this year just before she became ill with a brain tumour.

Ms Outey's boyfriend, Andrew Bentley, said he would ensure the girls went home. "[They] should be here. It's wrong," he said.



Wet suit: A fireman cleans himself of asbestos after a minor fire at the Treasury in Parliament Street, Whitehall. Chief Secretary William Waldegrave was among 1,500 people led to safety. Photograph: John Voos

Children to sue ministers over food poisoning

Susan Emmott

Seven children are suing the Government and other organisations after they were infected by the food poisoning bug which has now claimed the lives of six pensioners in Scotland.

Their families say the Government failed to warn the public and advise health authorities and NHS trusts about the dangers of E-coli 0157, the bacterium responsible for the food poisoning.

The children, all under the age of eight, contracted the bug in unrelated cases in different parts of England. They were yesterday granted legal aid to sue the Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

Three of them, two from the same family in Liverpool, and one from Gateshead, will also be suing the fast food chain McDonald's and their suppliers McKay Foods Ltd. The other four, from two different families in Stoke-on-Trent, are taking action against the butcher A J Green and Sons.

Gary Thomas, father of four-year-old Rachel and seven-year-old Katie, claims his daughters picked up the bacterium after eating a McDonald's meal in Liverpool last August.

"We knew nothing about E-coli, this burger bug," Lucy Kennedy, of Howe & Co, which is representing the families, said a report by the Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food published in 1995 warned against E-coli 0157. The report recommended the labelling of beef products with information about the bacterium and said that hygiene methods in abattoirs needed to be reviewed.

In the Stoke cases, four children from two families fell ill after eating rare burgers at a family barbecue. Their parents say they were unaware of the dangers.

The family of two of the other children say they developed symptoms following a meal at a McDonald's restaurant in Liverpool.

"All seven children have recovered but parents are concerned that the illness may have caused long-term damage."

The Department of Health said health professionals received advice from the royal colleges and from the Public Health Laboratory Service.

The spokesman said Government recommendations were fed through the royal colleges to the medical profession. McDonald's said last night: "We take any claims of this nature very seriously and will investigate fully as soon as details have been advised to us by the lawyers involved."

Doctors are trying to trace 20 students at the University of Wales in Cardiff who have not been given antibiotic treatment against the outbreak of meningitis that has killed two students.

No more cases of meningitis were reported in Cardiff yesterday. The results of tests on 24 students under observation are expected shortly. Three others are being treated for the disease, one was described as "critical but improving". The other two were responding well.

Dublin pay-off scandal deepens block on naming

Alan Murdoch Dublin

The scandal over pay-offs to Dublin politicians deepened last night as both the Prime Minister and Speaker of the Dail urged TDs (MPs) not to name the former Fianna Fail cabinet minister who received £1.1m secretly from Irish supermarket chief Ben Dunne through different London bank accounts.

Sean Treacy, the Speaker, warned against naming individuals outside the chamber in a way that might prejudice official investigations. The Prime Minister, John Bruton, urged that members refer such allegations to relevant authorities to be dealt with by due process.

The cheques and 100 others to politicians, business figures, and a broadcaster are included in a report prepared for Dumes Stores, Ireland's second largest supermarket chain, by accountants Price Waterhouse. The affair has already led to the weekend resignation of Irish transport minister Michael Lowry over 1992 payments of £208,000 from Mr Dunne. In last night's Dail debate on appointing former Fine Gael party leader Alan Dukes as Mr Lowry's successor, opposition parties demanded to know what if any favours Mr Dunne had received from Mr Lowry. Progressive Democrat leader Mary Harney said: "We should be told if Ben Dunne benefited finan-

cially from any decision made by Mr Lowry or by his Department."

She then asked if the Taoiseach was made aware that Mr Lowry "held a loan from Dumes Stores after his appointment as minister." She urged Mr Bruton to publish what Mr Lowry said about his interests when he became a minister in 1994.

Earlier, Bertie Ahern, leader of Fianna Fail, said he was "totally satisfied" with assurances from each of his current front bench that none had been the recipient of the £1.1m London payments. Today he will ask for the same assurances from all members of his parliamentary party and MEPs.

Virtual talks on Northern Ireland

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

Northern Ireland politics have just collided with virtual reality in the world of on-line communications, generating a flurry of angry messages whizzing through the ether.

In an electronic echo of what has been happening in political talks in Belfast, members of an on-line discussion forum will this weekend discuss ways of keeping a republican sympathiser out of their proceedings. The group's moder-

ator, journalist and broadcaster Vincent Hanna, is threatening to resign if things are not sorted out. Up to 100 people may take part in Sunday night's electronic conference, which has been called on the issue of support for violence.

They will be able to vote on a motion advocating the exclusion of anyone who advocates or supports the use of violence. Mr Hanna is suggesting that participants should adopt the Mitchell principles - six affirmations of non-violence formulated by talks chairman Senator George Mitchell - as the basis for discussions.

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'Merry Christmas': poverty behind the presents, grim warnings, advice on bad behaviour and screen wars

No fun for Disney's £1-a-day workers



Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

The makers of Barbie and Sindy dolls, Action Man and Disney toys have failed to alleviate the "poverty pay and appalling working conditions" suffered by many Asian workers, according to a Third World pressure group.

Despite a code of practice agreed by British suppliers and retailers, staff employed by some foreign factories are breathing in toxic fumes and working up to 24 hours at a stretch to meet the Christmas rush. Others have their pay docked for minor indiscretions and some

factories still employ child labour, the World Development Movement (WDM) alleges.

In a Chinese factory producing Disney toys, one 17-year-old girl earns just over £1 for an average 11-hour a day, seven days a week, the movement says.

Every day Hasbro UK, makers of Sindy and Action Man, spends more on advertising than on the wages paid to 7,000 Thai workers.

Staff making Barbie and Disney characters in Thailand continuously lose the right in maternity, holiday or sick pay because the factory dismisses them after 119 days – a day before their entitlement to benefits

is triggered. They are immediately re-employed without their rights.

A Chinese toy worker would have to work three months to earn the £80 we spend on average on toys for one child at Christmas, says the WDM.

Jessica Woodruffe, the WDM's head of campaigns, said British toy companies require minimum standards of product quality to ensure toys were safe for children. "They could also require minimum standards to ensure factories are safe for workers."

The campaign by the WDM – which is funded by its membership, churches and aid agencies – began more than three years ago after 188

workers were killed and 469 injured in a fire at the Kader toy works in Thailand.

Some companies yesterday were commended by the organisation. Sainsbury, the Gap and B&Q were all developing monitoring systems to give safety codes "teeth", Ms Woodruffe said.

David Hawtin, director general of the British Toy and Hobby Association, said the industry was surprised by the organisation's "onslaught". The association had set up a three-person complaints committee in Europe, following assertions by the movement.

Mr Hawtin said that manuals had been issued to factories in southern

China where most of the toy production took place. Factories were encouraged to comply with local laws on working hours, pay and a minimum age for employees. Health and safety seminars had been held.

He said that Hong Kong unions were behind yesterday's WDM report. Employees' leaders in the colony had lost their "power base" because toy manufacture had moved to China to take advantage of lower labour costs. Many of the workers were desperately poor and from north and west China, Mr Hawtin said. "They earn more in one month from making toys than they could earn in a year on the farm."

"They work like stinko during the peak season from March to October and they want to work hard. There are always plenty of people wishing to be re-employed."

Lee Hae, a factory manager in Shenzhen city, gave another version to the WDM: "Those peasants are brutes. You have to whip them like donkeys to make them understand."

Chuck Champlin of Disney in California said the movement had given them few specifics. However, he said the company was adamant that manufacturers obey the law in their countries. "We will investigate any allegations of wrongdoing if provided with the details."



Barbie: No maternity rights

Water down the festive spirit

Barrie Clement

Employers should tone down Christmas parties or learn to cope with the resulting fights, sexual harassment, vandalism and drug abuse when festivities get out of hand, according to experts in employment law.

It is no good plying the workers with free drink and then disciplining them for outlandish behaviour afterwards, according to Eversheds, the solicitors.

One couple, who virtually had sexual intercourse in front of their colleagues, won an unfair dismissal case because management had tolerated similar exhibitions in the past, said Irish Embley, an employment law specialist at Eversheds.

The classic case involved Dixons, the electrical chain, which dismissed two of its area managers in London for a "lewd act", involving simulated sex. An Employment Appeal Tribunal found that the men had been unlawfully sacked because there had been a history of "turns in bad taste" at company functions. The tribunal decided that new rules of conduct had not been properly communicated to Dixons staff prior to the party.

Ms Embley warned employers that tribunals "take a dim view" of companies encouraging staff to let their hair down and then trying to discipline them afterwards.

Employers should be particularly wary of providing free drink. Tribunals would always take such a facility into account as a mitigating circumstance when assessing whether the employee's behaviour justified dismissal.

She said that her caseload in the early months of the year tended to be dominated with the aftermath of Christmas festivities which got out of hand.

Her advice to companies was to inform staff about the kind of behaviour that was expected of them and ensure that management realised they had a duty to keep matters under control at the time.

Ms Embley who last night enjoyed her own firm's Christmas party, said: "It is perfectly all right for people to get a bit silly and a bit tiddy, but matters should not be allowed to go to far."



Party season: "It is perfectly all right for people to get a bit silly and a bit tiddy, but matters should not be allowed to go to far"

Photograph: Brian Harris

Adverts target young drivers' vanity

Michael Streeter

The Government yesterday targeted the guilt and vanity of young people in its new Christmas campaign against drink-driving.

The message, more subtle than in recent years, features a television advertisement in which an actress portrays a young woman badly scarred in an accident the year before by her drink-driving boyfriend. The woman, played by Isobel Raine, is looking into a mirror and taking off her make-up after a night out with her boyfriend. "Anyway, we're still together, although sometimes I think he's only with me because I feel guilty," she says. "Then again, I

wonder if I'm only with him because I'm scared I won't get anyone else."

Udder fire from critics who claim that the number of drink-related accidents have stopped falling. Road Safety Minister John Bawls said yesterday they were following research in tackling the main group of offenders – young men aged 17 to 24.

Mr Bawls said that young males seemed less concerned whether they killed themselves in an accident. "The research indicates that what does affect them is the thought that they may maim or scar someone else – for example a girlfriend... The woman featured in our campaign has the everlasting reminder of the dangers of drinking and driving."

Ms Raine who wore make-up depicting a heavily scarred forehead and cheek, said that in a "vain" society, the prospect of facial disfigurement played heavily on young people's lives. "It brings home the point that scars are not just for Christmas – they are for life."

The launch of the £1.2m poster and television campaign – at the Metropolitan Police Training Centre in Hendon, north-west London – included a mock road accident handled by fire and ambulancemen, watched by cast members of BBC Television's *Casualty* programme.

A parallel radio campaign will use the curio "Silent Night" as reports of drink-drive accidents are relayed.

The concern for the Government is that despite the success of last year's award-winning campaign – featuring a brain-damaged youth who had been egged on by his mates to have "one more" – the number of drink-related road deaths appears to have levelled out. Last year, the number of deaths was 580, dramatically down from the 1985 number of 1,040, but 40 more than in 1994.

Proclaiming the success of campaigns over 20 years, Mr Bawls said: "The vast majority of drivers over the years have been persuaded by the Government's... messages. We still, however, need to persuade the minority who cause such unnecessary suffering."

Edmund King, RAC head of campaigns said: "After 10 years of decline the drink-drive accident figures have started to plateau. It is essential that we continue with these hard-hitting campaigns and that the police target the hard core of persistent offenders."

Labour's transport spokeswoman Glenda Jackson welcomed the new campaign but re-affirmed the party's view that it would seek to lower the alcohol limit for drivers from 80 mg to 50 mg per 100ml of blood, in line with many other European countries.

Mr Bawls said the level was always under review but did not want to have that debate deflecting from the Christmas campaign.

The BBC unveils a TV dinosaur

Marianne Macdonald
Media Correspondent

An in-depth study of England's Euro 96 campaign, revealing that the defender Gareth Southgate did not practice penalty kicks before the crucial game against Germany, leads the BBC's Christmas schedule.

When *Football Came Home*, to be shown on 23 December, will be followed by *Jurassic Park* from the Hollywood director Steven Spielberg as the Christmas Day blockbuster film to be screened at 7pm – competing with *The Remains of the Day* on ITV, starring Sir Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson.

Jurassic Park is a part of an estimated £5m deal which includes a screening of *Schindler's List* next year, it emerged yesterday. The BBC's Christmas lineup will also feature the comedian David Jason in a three-part mini series of *Only Fools and Horses* and Dawn French in *The Vicar of Dibley*. The festive fortnight contains almost 200 hours of BBC-originated material, with 37 drama and entertainment specials (including a new adaptation of George Eliot's dark classic *The Mill on the Floss*) and 12 network television film premieres.

Scheduled are *The Firm*, adapted from John Grisham's novel and starring Tom Cruise as a lawyer desperate to escape his new employers; the whale movie *Free Willy: Chasing the Whale*, starring Sylvester Stallone; and *Shadows*, with Sir Anthony Hopkins playing the writer CS Lewis. Richard Gere and Jodie Foster star in *Somewhere*, Hollywood's American civil war version of the Martin Gurne story, and Woody Allen's *Manhattan Murder Mystery* and *Glenn Ross* starring Al Pacino and Jack Lemmon will be on BBC2.

On Christmas Day there will be an *EastEnders* special, the annual round-up of *Top of the Pops*, an *Animal Hospital* special presented by Rolf Harris and, of course, the Queen's Christmas Message at 3pm.

But Christmas is a key battle area for broadcasters. Michael Jackson, the controller of BBC1, warned: "We will tinker with the schedule right up until the last minute. We want to make sure we have the best programme combination."

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High-profile contenders eye Scott seat

FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

The hunt for a replacement for deposed Conservative MP Sir Nicholas Scott will begin today, sources in the former minister's Kensington and Chelsea constituency said last night.

Notices will go out to begin the selection process for a new MP to represent the area after the general election, when Sir Nicholas will stand down. There are likely to be a number of high-profile contenders for the seat, which is one of the safest in the country.

Party members refused to back Sir Nicholas's continued candidature on Monday night. The move to deselect him came after he was found lying face-down on the pavement after a drink-driving conviction earlier this year.

Sir Nicholas told a packed meeting at Kensington Town Hall that he had given up drink completely, but he was defeated by 509 votes to 439.

Yesterday Andrew Dalton, constituency chairman, said a new candidate for the seat would be selected before the end of January. "We are wasting no time at all," he said.

Mr Dalton said the 130-strong executive council of the association would meet next week to set up a timetable for the selection process, and the post would then be advertised to people on the Conservative

Party's approved list of candidates. The final stage would be a meeting at which a minimum of four contenders would address party members, and at which a ballot would be held.

Mr Dalton, who denied rumours that he was planning to stand for the seat himself, said the move to unseat Sir Nicholas was unconnected with his reputation as a "wet". He also described as "nonsense" the suggestion that the seat was being kept warm for the return of Chris Patten, currently governor of Hong Kong.

"I don't think that Nick was deselected because of anything political. There was a feeling that he was becoming accident-prone, and he had indicated that he was only going to stand for one more parliament," he said.

Among those whose names were being mentioned as possible successors last night was the Northern Ireland minister, Sir John Wheeler, whose Westminster North constituency has been affected by boundary changes. Sir John's office said last night that he was not commenting on the rumours.

Other possible runners could include Hartley Booth, the MP who succeeded Margaret Thatcher in Finchley and who has also been hit by boundary changes. Terry Dicks, MP for Hayes and Harlington, who has a majority of just 53, and Alan Clark.

Last night Mr Dicks confirmed that he was thinking of standing, although few commentators believe he will be selected.

"Of course I am interested and yes I will apply. Then we will allow the selection committee to make their choice," he said.



Community care: MP Ken Livingstone talks to Rachel Goldberg, who is supported by Norwood Ravenswood, the new £17m Jewish learning-disability charity. Photograph: David Rose

Party's health spokesman says he wants 'joint consent' as he outlines proposals for the NHS Labour set to scrap fundholding

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

GP fundholding could be scrapped within "two to three years" of Labour taking office, Chris Smith, the shadow health secretary, said yesterday in the clearest statement so far of Labour's plans for the NHS.

Fundholding GPs, the Prime Minister and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, attacked the plans, which mark a shift from outright abolition of fundholding threatened by Labour in the past.

Mr Smith told the *Independent* in an exclusive interview that he wanted to proceed "by consent" in replacing GP fundholding with "joint commissioning", in which groups of family doctors would be expected to act together in plan-

ning services for their area. He made a distinction between single-handed GP fundholders, who would be told to join commissioning GPs, and fundholding groups who may be allowed to continue. "That is one of the reasons why it is important to try to take people with us. It is going to be evolution rather than revolution."

Mr Smith said there were circumstances in which fundholding could be allowed to continue, if it was with the agreement of the other GPs in the area. "Ultimately, if we had a number of GP contractors saying we are not going to go in with these locality groupings, we might have to say, 'Sorry, you have to'. And there is provision if you have everyone else in a partnership who agrees and it is within the guidelines of the locality group for you to continue."

Mr Smith will seek to introduce an NHS Bill within the first year of a Labour government to change the present framework of 100 health authorities, possibly reducing their numbers, and turning them into more strategic bodies with responsibility for promoting public health and monitoring performance of GP commissioning groups. But he disclosed that he envisages using the Government's own NHS Primary Care, which received a second reading in the Lords last night, to introduce pilot schemes for joint commissioning before the gradual change took place.

In a speech setting out his plans, Mr Smith told a London conference: "Our plans for GP commissioning would eliminate the two-tier system which GP fundholding has created and

which has led to many hospitals imposing longer waits for treatment for the patients of non-fundholders."

Local commissioning groups should also be properly accountable to local voices so that the views of patients and residents were taken into account."

Mr Smith yesterday committed Labour to matching the Tory's election pledge to spend an extra £1.6bn on the NHS next year, if Labour won the general election. He refused to meet the Tory pledge to spend more in real terms every year over the lifetime of the next Parliament under the tight spending constraints enforced by Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor.

Mr Dorrell claimed that if Labour won the election, more than 50 per cent of family doctors who had chosen to manage their own budgets would have

these budgets stripped from them. "They will be shackled - many against their will - into a form of chain-gang committee-based commissioning."

Mr Dorrell said there was a raft of unanswered questions following Mr Smith's speech.

He said it was unclear whether commissioning groups would be allowed to retain any budget savings and what incentive there would be for better purchasing.

Clive Parr, of the National Association of Fundholding Practices, warned there would be resistance from GP fundholders.

"A recent poll of fundholders showed quite clearly that the vast majority of fundholders oppose the concept of commissioning groups," he said.

Dr Judy Gilley, joint deputy chairman of the BMA, general

medical services committee, said: "We would wish to see the evolution to local commissioning groups is voluntary, piloted and protects the best interests of fundholding practices as well as non-fundholding practices."

Labour's plans to reform the internal market include:

- Longer-term agreements of three to five years, to replace the annual contracting round.
- An end to individual patient invoicing and extra-contractual referrals procedures.
- The disappearance of many management tasks from GP practice level, health authority level and hospitals.
- Consideration of a reduction in the number of health authorities.
- A reduction to one-tenth of the present number of agreements and contracts in the health service.

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS SCORING THE EXCHANGES

John Major 9/10
Major was disarmingly frank and to the point: "It is right to give the Prime Minister credit for such a clear reply," he said. "I am sure that he will make his conventional attempt to be made to other questions, his candour was refreshing."

Tony Blair 3/10
If he wanted Major to offer a hostage to Elizabeth II, then Blair got what he wanted, but it seems more likely he wanted Major to relinquish his plans were thoroughly accepted.

THEMES OF THE DAY

- Labour's plans for GP fundholding (Peter Butler, C, NE Milton Keynes)
- Direct taxation as a proportion of average incomes (Clive Betts, Lab, Sheffield, Attercliffe)
- Council tax levels (John Marshall, C, Hendon St)
- Taxation on the poor (Andrew McGinley, Lab, Tisbury)

BLAIR'S ATTACK

Not so much an attack - more a couple of issues Blair wanted clearing up, he asked Major to confirm that the refusal to rule out joining the single currency in the next Parliament remained unequivocally the position of the government. "That remains unequivocally the position of the government," replied Major. Blair sat still for a couple of moments before rising to ask whether Major agreed with Michael Heseltine's pledge given on the radio several hours beforehand, that the position would not change. The reply: "My Rt Hon Friend said that: that is our position." Blair had no third question.

GOOD DAY **BAD DAY**

Clive Betts - Said Commons library figures showed that direct taxes paid by an average family have risen not just in real terms, but also in proportion to average earnings. Major replied that the figures were distorted by people moving up the tax bands, and that "they are £1,100 better off next year than before the last election."

Cynog Dafis (PC, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire) who was shown the yellow card for applauding a public gallery protest against arms sales to Indonesia.

THE QUIP OF THE DAY

Edward O'Hare (Lab, Knowsley St) who asked if Major would confirm "that in order to qualify for all the 25 pence tax cut a taxpayer must have a small company, drive a vintage car, and be dead?"

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

What was Blair up to? Or David Smeeth (C, Bury St) asked, as it was the Bury and Bolton Chamber of Commerce's Christmas lunch on Friday, would Major send them congratulations for their economic success over the past year, "and best wishes for a new year of greater prosperity under a new Conservative government"? Major, to his credit, neglected to answer.

THE CREEP OF THE DAY

Dr Robert Spink (C, Castle Point) "On the day in which the Palace is graced with the presence of the forces' sweetheart Darna Veis Lynn, would my Rt Hon Friend send a message of goodwill to every one in the armed forces who will be serving over Christmas?"

Louise Jury

Fundholding GPs in a health authority forced to halt heart operations because of a cash crisis have millions of pounds of savings, *The Independent* has learned.

GPs in Oxfordshire are expected to be able to carry a £3.1m surplus from last year into next - while Oxfordshire Health Authority predicts a £3.1m deficit for the financial year.

The authority's problems have forced the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford to stop all non-urgent cardiac surgery this month except in cases where GP fundholders are guaranteeing payment. It has asked fundholders whether they will hand over some of their spare cash to help and a donation of £200,000 has been agreed.

Dr Sian Griffiths, the authority's director of public health and health policy, and Nick Relph, the finance director, said the situation highlighted "nonsenses" in the fundholding rules which unfairly favoured fundholders.

Unlike health authorities, fundholders are allowed to carry savings through to the next

James Cusick

The wedding list, long the domain of fashionable couples seeking useful gifts as opposed to 20 toasters, has been adopted by an NHS Trust hospital.

The League of Friends of Barnet Hospital in north London has issued a medical "shopping list" for the public in its "Make a Million" campaign.

Where the wedding list might concentrate on decent china or cutlery, the Barnet shopping list is asking the public to raise cash and buy every-

thing from basic stethoscopes to expensive ultra-sound scanning machines identified on the medical gift list.

Geoff Martin, campaign director of the London Health Emergency lobbying group, criticised the shopping list appeal yesterday, stating: "At a time when the Government are telling us that they are pumping funds into the NHS we've got a prestigious new hospital begging the public to stump up cash for basic medical equipment."

Mr Martin also claims that the "shopping list" equip-

ment will eventually become the property of the private consortium who ultimately are accountable to shareholders.

Sue Maclellan, operations director of the Wellhouse Trust, denies the public are being conned. "The equipment that is donated to the trust - and there is clear evidence that people have a need to give - will remain the property of the trust."

She said that the trust would eventually face a lease bill for the new hospital and for equipment. "Essentially the more equipment we own, the

less will be our bill from the consortium."

However, she said if the consortium did take over the ownership of all of Barnet Hospital, it would become responsible for the maintenance of all equipment and its replacement.

The LHE appears less than impressed. Mr Martin added: "This whole sordid exercise underlines the underfunding of the NHS. How long before hospitals start asking the general public to sponsor the cost of bed pans?"

red. This is another reason why we are going to replace fundholding with a more equitable system of GP commissioning."

The cash crisis in Oxfordshire comes as evidence of the funding shortfall emerges across the country as predicted by doctors and health service managers last month.

Fazakerley Hospital in Liverpool has postponed all non-urgent operations after 14 patients had to spend the night

in casualty because of a beds shortage last month.

The Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham has suspended routine operations for the whole of November and December - an estimated 350 operations. "They are not cancelled completely, but if we carried on we would completely run out of money," a spokesman said.

The Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust halted non-urgent elective surgery in August and will be performing no more until the start of the next financial year. A 10 per cent increase in emergency would have meant an additional £600,000 bill for the North and East Devon Health Authority, its major purchaser. "They did not have the money, so they requested we stopped all but emergency work," a spokeswoman said.

In the Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust, some cardiac surgery has been put off because there was no money to pay for it. And the United Bristol Healthcare Trust has slowed down the rate of its routine surgery, extending waiting lists to a maximum 18 months, to help limit its projected £500,000 deficit.

GP's offer hospital cash from funds

Louise Jury

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Sir Terence was startled to hear that a newspaper had bought the camera, and said he was relieved he hadn't followed his original idea for an erotic

Other pictures capture ordinary items, like his lunch, a piece of pink beef and a bottle of red

Ironically, the cameras used by designers and entertainers cameras sell for £100 while those wielded by the professionals fetch only £50.



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Official papers reveal reveal picture of selfish and indiscreet man who embarrassed Britain



The Duke of Windsor inspecting a German military training school at Grossensee

Duke who just could not be beastly to the Nazis



The duke and duchess meeting Adolf Hitler in 1937

Photographs: Hulton Getty

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John Crossland

The 1945 Labour government desperately tried to conceal evidence of the Duke of Windsor's ambivalent attitude towards Germany during the early part of the Second World War, according to official papers released yesterday.

A top-secret file from the private papers of Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary, which had been ordered to remain closed for a century, was opened at the Public Record Office in Kew.

German diplomatic papers found at Schloss Marburg by the American occupiers in May 1945 had showed up the duke's ambivalent attitudes to a continuation of the war - sympathies which had encouraged the SS to launch "Operation Willi" with a view to luring him on to Spanish territory, where he would have been kidnapped.

Other private papers relating to the duke's peace-feelers are believed to have been secreted from the home of the Royal Family's German cousins at Schloss Coburg by the spy Anthony Blunt. (They may surface after the century set for release of the abdication papers.)

A dramatic personal testament to the duke's indiscretions was revealed yesterday in a minute sent to the Foreign Office via the Lisbon embassy in April 1943. A count Nava de "Bijo, described as "an agreeable young Spaniard" who was formerly an employee of the League of Nations, had told an embassy official that the duke had "expected the British Cabinet to resign in the near future and expected to see the creation of a Labour government which would enter into negotiations with Germany. He expected also that King George VI would abdicate, following a virtual revolution brought about by the fact that the ruling classes had utterly disgraced themselves and that he the Duke of Windsor would be summoned to return to England to occupy the throne."

De "Bijo continued: "HRH also spoke of how England would become the leader of a coalition consisting of France, Spain and Portugal while Germany would be free to march against Russia."

The report went on: "HRH said at dinner, I was got rid of by the Tories, and expressed himself with some force about the present Queen of England [the Queen Mother] whom he termed 'an ambitious woman'."

In a plea to Clement Attlee, the Prime Minister, to have the Windsor file exempted from the release of German war-time documents, Bevin urged the objective "to try to persuade United States government to co-operate with us in suppressing the documents concerned. They would possess the highest publicity value on account of the personalities involved and the types of intrigues described. Any disclosure would in my

opinion do grave harm to the national interest."

Bevin said that a diplomatic initiative with the American occupation authorities was not enough. "We should go the lengths of asking the US government whether it would be willing that the file should be destroyed or at least handed over to us for safe-keeping."

The American State Department, through Britain's ambassador to Washington, Lord Halifax, put Bevin in his place. "It appreciates the reasons which prompt the British government to wish to restrict circulation of certain documents but it cannot discount the importance to the history of the war of the German manoeuvres for a negotiated peace at that time. It would be unlawful for the secretary of state to authorise delivery of them to the British government."

Judge Jackson, the American prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials did, however, go along with a cover-up by promising not to raise the Windsor issue at the hearings.

The papers show that

Churchill made overtures to find the duke a role as an ex-officio diplomat, a plan crushed by Bevin after an interview with the king. Attlee was told on 13 October, 1945 that the king asked Bevin about the possibility of the Duke of Windsor being made ambassador to Washington. Bevin replied that he didn't think "HRH should be given such employment". "The king", said the memo, "expressed satisfaction with the arrangement."

Archibald Clark-Kerr, who was given the appointment, was told bluntly: "this is to warn you in case HRH approaches you on the matter [of an appointment]. He should be given no encouragement." Clark-Kerr was told to burn the telegram.

The pattern of the duke's future life, with its extravagance and peregrinations, emerged as sooo as Germany surrendered and the concern it caused a Labour government presiding over an austerity programme is vividly caught. The Treasury asked the Cabinet for approval for an overdraft of £5,000 which the duke had asked to be forwarded to his Paris account at Lloyds Bank.

Pierson Dixon, senior diplomat at the Foreign Office, minuted: "The Treasury explain that there is no exchange problem involved but they naturally feel hesitation about the large sums of money being made available to the duke in France when ordinary British subjects there are severely restricted. It is reasonable I think that the duke and duchess should have ample facilities than an ordinary British subject. It is really a question of degree. If they now proceed to live on an extravagant scale, going in for large scale entertaining and spending large sums on the decoration of their house, there is bound to be criticism..."



Winston Churchill: Tries to find the Duke a role

Officer shot unarmed suspect

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

An armed policeman shot and fatally wounded an unarmed suspected car thief in a busy street, a court heard yesterday.

The case is believed to be the first time a police officer has been charged with murder for an offence allegedly committed while on duty.

PC Patrick Hodgson, 49, shot David Ewin, 38, twice in the arm and stomach with a handgun, in what a fellow police officer believed was not an armed incident, a jury at the Old Bailey

was told. PC Hodgson has denied murdering Mr Ewin, who died two weeks later in hospital from internal injuries.

After the shooting PC Hodgson kept repeating "Why didn't he do as he was told?" and that he had no choice, said John Bevan, prosecuting. But, the prosecution told the jury: "If shooting Ewin was the only option, it is tantamount to saying that any car thief, driving recklessly, may reasonably be shot by a police officer."

PC Hodgson was part of a three-person crew of a Metropolitan Police armed response vehicle that had spotted a reportedly stolen car in Barnes, south-west London, in February last year. Mr Ewin ran out of a shop when the police arrived and got into the stolen Toyota.

PC Hodgson and his colleague PC Patrick Kelly had got out of their vehicle. The court heard that PC Hodgson managed to grab Mr Ewin round the neck through the open car window. There was a brief struggle PC Hodgson was in danger of being squashed between two cars and he began smashing his gun against the windscreen and shouting "armed police" before

jumping clear and going around to the passenger side of the car.

"PC Hodgson took up a crouched stance at the passenger door pointing his gun at Ewin. PC Kelly described himself as... confused and shocked because at no time did he regard what was happening as an armed incident," said Mr Bevan.

Two shots were fired.

PC Hodgson said he shot Mr Ewin because he feared for his own life and civilians. But, Mr Bevan said, PC Hodgson and members of the public were not in danger from Ewin.

The case continues.

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New hope for breast cancer sufferers

Glenda Cooper

Muscle and skin from a woman's back can now be used to correct breast disfigurement after surgery for cancer, doctors heard yesterday.

Speaking at the British Association of Plastic Surgeons' winter meeting, Mrs CC Koo, until recently a senior registrar in plastic surgery at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, said that "very high rates" of patient satisfaction were reported after using this method.

The trend in the treatment of breast cancer, the most common malignancy in women, has shifted from mastectomy (removal of the entire breast) to breast conservation surgery (removal of only the diseased area).

However, as this treatment has gained popularity it has now been realised that the disfigurement which it can cause can be more upsetting than a mastectomy.

The treatment which has been pioneered at Stoke Mandeville, involves using muscle and skin from the woman's back, the *latissimus dorsi* myocutaneous flap. This muscle is hardly used at all "unless you are a champion climber" said Mrs Koo. After the diseased area has been removed, the muscle is used to reconstruct the affected breast so that it appears symmetrical to the other.

The operation, which is car-

ried out by a plastic surgeon and a breast surgeon, takes two hours on average and the patient will usually have to stay in hospital for a week afterwards. This compares with a complete mastectomy which takes four to six hours and with a patient staying in for two weeks on average.

Each year in the UK there are 35,000 new cases of breast cancer and 15,000 deaths per year. A woman has a one in twelve chance of developing breast cancer in her lifetime. Mrs Koo estimated that this procedure would be suitable for 80 per cent of women with breast tumours.

At Stoke Mandeville, this procedure has been tried on 40 patients so far, with high rates of patient satisfaction. The women were aged 50 on average, and were in hospital for about a week. Of those who were suitable for the treatment, 60 per cent agreed to try it.

Complications were minimal. A few patients had fluid collecting in their backs, which was easily removed, and two had minor wound infections. In all cases the tumour was completely removed. "Since 1994 our experience with the first 40 cases has shown this method to be a simple yet effective way of treating the increasing number of women presenting with early breast cancer. The most important result is the high patient satisfaction rate," said Mrs Koo.

Archbishop meets Pope in Vatican

Andrew Brown
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Rome — The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, arrived in Rome yesterday for three days of talks with the Pope. The discussions will be "very tough and interesting" according to one of the Archbishop's party, but no one expects them to lead to a breakthrough.

Since the Church of England began ordaining female priests in 1994, it has been obvious that both sides have abandoned hope of formal union. The hostility over this issue was recently underlined when Cecilia Monge, a former Roman Catholic, was ordained in the Anglican Church in Rome where Dr Carey

preached last night after his first meeting with the Pope. Substantive talks between the two leaders will be held tomorrow.

"Even in our sad separation, Anglicans and Catholics have not ceased to be brothers and sisters in the one Lord," Pope John Paul II said yesterday, greeting Dr Carey in his library. It was a mark of the Pope's decreasing vigour that the formal ceremony was held in the recesses of the Vatican rather than anywhere slightly more public.

Dr Carey told the Pope: "We cannot undo overnight doctrinal differences and the bitterness that have resulted from the legacy of history. But we are able to confront them as fellow Christians."

BREAD

A genetically modified yeast has been licensed for sale in Britain, but has not yet been used in bread making.

BACON AND SAUSAGE

A genetically modified pig has been reared in the USA with a gene for human growth hormone stitched into its DNA. The hope was that it would produce much more lean pork per pig. But the unfortunate pig suffered a range of ailments because its body could not cope with the extra muscle, including arthritis and lethargy. Their meat has not been marketed. Processed ham and bacon contain soya bean extracts; genetically engineered beans are now being grown and sold.

TOMATO

In America, a genetically modified 'flavour-saver' tomato has been marketed. It stays ripe for longer before it starts to rot.

EGG

Biotechnology companies are exploring the prospects for a chicken genetically engineered to be featherless and nude. The theory is that it would then be able to invest more of its metabolic energy in producing meat or eggs.

Other common foods where genetically modified organisms are being exploited:

THE COOKING OILS this fry-up has been fried in could, very soon, be made in Britain from genetically modified soya and maize. SUGAR: A sugar beet which has been genetically engineered to be resistant to weed-killers is undergoing trial growing in Britain. A 'vegetarian CHEESE' has been marketed whose manufacture relies on the use of an enzyme made by genetically modified yeast.

The great British engineered breakfast

Nicholas Schoon
Environment Correspondent

In the early 1970s, scientists discovered how to move the hereditary material DNA from one micro-organism into another, unrelated one. It was one of the greatest scientific breakthroughs because it meant that one lifeform could be suddenly given an ability or property quite foreign to its nature.

Now, around a quarter of a century later, the traditional English breakfast pictured above is the product of genetic engineering. All the food in the fry-up has been influenced in some way by developing techniques for stitching genes from one organism to another. From the early days, scientists were aware that there were unknown but potentially grave dangers in what they were doing. Micro-organisms — bacteria and viruses — are, after all, the types of life which do mankind most harm, causing lethal and debilitating diseases.

The possibility existed that one with alien genes in its DNA could make some breakthrough in its ability to harm people. Geneticists were naturally concerned because, working in their laboratories to create the new lifeforms, they would be first in the firing line.

But after much debate, they mostly persuaded themselves that the new techniques could be used safely, and a host of research and development companies sprang up in developed countries, especially the USA.

Now, in the Nineties, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are starting to come to market in ways which touch all of our lives — yet most of us know next to nothing about them. To date there has been

only one product on the shelves of a couple of British supermarket chains — cans of tomato puree made from a GMO tomato and sold by Safeway and Sainsbury. It has genes in it which allow the tomato to ripen on the vine, which in turn makes it cheaper to process. The savings are passed on to customers in a lower price.

But all that is about to change, because the British

government and the European Union has licensed the use, in food, of genetically modified soya beans. The first consignment from the United States, the world's great soya bean grower, arrived in Liverpool at the end of last week.

Greenpeace attempted to prevent the cargo ship carrying it from unloading, but its activists who clambered on to cranes and stayed up them

overnight were eventually arrested and charged with aggravated trespass.

Soya, a protein-packed vegetable, is found in about 60 per cent of processed foods — oils, spreads, cakes and biscuits, snacks, frozen deserts and even ham and bacon. Soya extract is put in the brine injected into the meats, which makes them draw in water and increase in bulk. Its arrival presented a real

problem for the supermarket chains — several of which had promised customers that any GMO products would be labelled as such. For one thing, such labels would suddenly appear like a rash. For another, the soya beans which have now crossed the Atlantic are a mixture. The great bulk of them are conventional. But 2 per cent are genetically modified.

The exporters argued that it

would be impracticable to keep the modified beans separate. But it put the supermarkets and the firms which manufacture their food in a "like-it-or-lump-it" position, with no option to ask for GMO-free soya beans.

In Britain, the food industry has chosen to lump it, but in Germany — where concern about the issue runs high — Unilever has promised it will not use GMO soya.

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news

Co Durham's Corbusier seeks to heal rift over troubled bridge

Nigel Burnham

On the eve of his 88th birthday, the artist and sculptor Victor Pasmore has broken his silence over the fate of a concrete folly proclaimed by English Heritage as "an internationally important masterpiece", but derided by local people as "a slimy old bridge" that should be demolished.

The Apollo Pavilion in Peterlee, County Durham, was conceived by Pasmore, a major figure of the post-war British avant garde, as "an architectural and sculpture of purely abstract form through which to walk, in which to linger and on which to play".

Built in 1963, it was the artist's post-modernist contribution to Peterlee, Durham's only new town where, eight years earlier, Pasmore had been appointed consulting director of urban design.

The "Corbusier of County Durham", then Master of Painting at Durham University, wanted to bring some cheer to the lives of the miners relocating from grimy pit villages. But to residents of the Sunny Blunts housing estate, which Pasmore also helped to plan and design, the pavilion and the polluted pond it spans has brought only hostility and misery as a target for vandalism and a meeting place for glue-sniffers and teenage courting couples.

Easington District Council feels the same way. It is objecting to English Heritage's de-



Concrete bungle? The Apollo Pavilion - both loved and loathed Photographs: North News

cision to recommend to Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, that the sculpture should be listed Grade II*, taking the view that the pavilion has no architectural or historical merit to warrant preservation. It has asked the Government's Conservation Agency to abandon its plans to list the sculpture and assist instead in its demolition.

Joan Maslin, a district councillor who represents Sunny Blunts, is the pavilion's fiercest critic, having campaigned for 14 years for its removal. It is her fight to have his pavilion demolished which has prompted Pasmore to defend his work for

the first time since 1982 when, on a visit to Peterlee, he said the vandalism had humanised his work, demonstrating its acceptance by the community.

In a letter to Mrs Maslin, written from his retirement home in Malta and prompted by an article in *The Independent* in September, Pasmore explains that the pavilion, together with the lake, were designed to form a "non-utilitarian" centre for the Sunny Blunts housing estate.

"One of the main problems of urban design," he writes, "seemed to me that there is no emotional centre like that provided by the Church in the past by its cathedrals. When [it

was] decided to turn the stream running through Sunny Blunts into a lake I thought if its existence was emphasised by a large sculpture it might function as a purely visual centre. This led to the idea of a pavilion ...

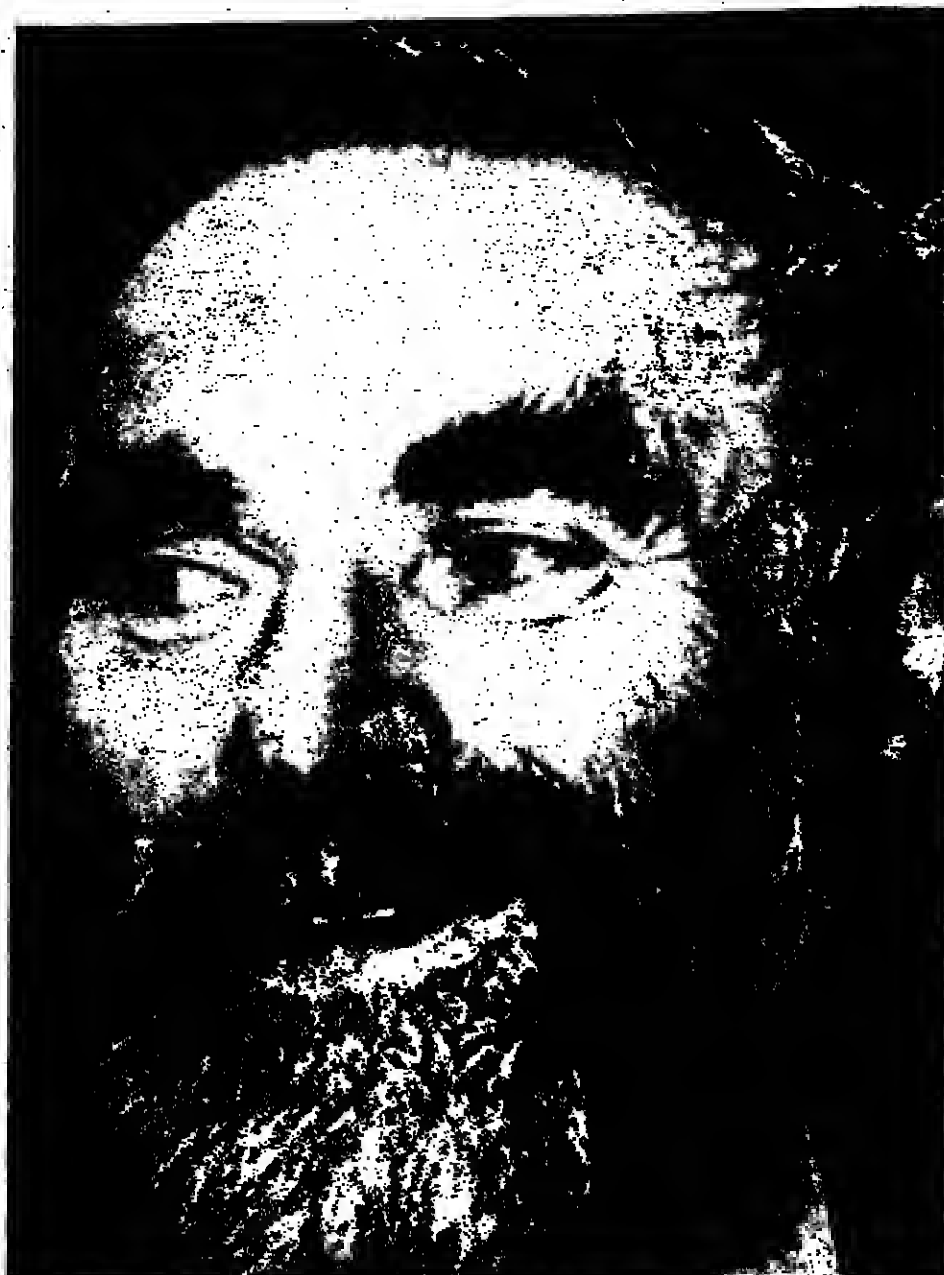
"At that time the maintenance of the building was undertaken by the corporation itself so that it served as a kind of centre very well. But the trouble started when children and bootleggers began to scribble over the interior walls upstairs with words and images, some of which were obscene. Naturally, this infuriated the residents living around and of course the local council ... I apologise for my

design being distasteful to you: but I had to do something modern. To have put up an imitation Greek temple, a Gothic church or a Georgian mansion would have produced equally strong objections from a different source. I hope, therefore, you will have another look at the pavilion!"

Although flattered to have received Pasmore's letter, Mrs Maslin remains unmoved. "The reason why the sculpture was put here in the first place doesn't mean anything to the people - most of whom are pensioners - who live here. It is all very well these famous artists and architects designing things and getting a fat fee, but it's ordinary people who have to live with the consequences of the desolation they create."

"All people here think of the pavilion is that it is a heap of dirty, slimy concrete covered in graffiti which youths climb up to have sex on, and from which to urinate on passers-by. It should be destroyed and forgotten about, not preserved."

Blain Harwood, an English Heritage historian, could not be contacted yesterday, but recently insisted that the sculpture was a national treasure which needed to be restored and properly managed and maintained. "It's an absolutely unique work of considerable international importance," she said. "It was an extraordinary thing to put up in the heart of a new town. There isn't another piece of public sculpture like it anywhere in the country."



Victor Pasmore: 'An imitation Greek temple would have produced equally strong objections'

Jail warning for stalker who terrorised woman

An obsessive stalker was warned by a judge yesterday that he faces a "substantial" jail sentence after being found guilty of waging a four-year campaign which left his victim in fear of her life.

Peter Smith, 51, a restaurateur of West Wickham, Kent, once sent the woman a miniature cardboard coffin and on other occasions sent her offensive presents and literature through the post. The father-of-three's relentless pursuit of the terrified woman, 40, no less than 300 occasions, left her emotionally scarred for life.

Her trauma was so severe it amounted to actual bodily harm, the jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court decided. But it cleared him of a more serious charge alleging grievous bodily harm as well as a second count of causing actual bodily harm relating to an allegation that he drove his car at her.

Remanding Smith in custody for social and psychiatric reports, Judge Richard Walker,

said: "You face a substantial prison sentence unless it becomes apparent to me that it is appropriate that your case should be disposed of under the Mental Health Act."

He added that having seen the way he conducted himself in the witness box, it seemed there were grounds for having "concern" about his future behaviour. As a result the judge thought it would be a good idea if his eventual sentencing remarks were used for granting a "permanent injunction" banning him from ever contacting his victim again after his release.

Smith's campaign of "intimidating, calculated and cruel behaviour" started in September 1992. The 48-year-old mother of two told the jury it began with repeated calls to both her London home and office.

For a while his behaviour was little more than annoying. But things took a more serious turn when he posted her a toy-sized coffin together with a box of matches and a note which read:

"Burn this, you bitch, RIP." He also started lying in wait for the woman outside her place of work. Sometimes he would content himself with a glare, but on others he would block her path and threaten her.

Throughout, he was bombarding her with letters which would one day declare his undying love, and on others refer to her in such disparaging terms.

She told the jury that by this time her nerves were so frayed she was taking medication for hypertension. "It was making me feel desperately unhappy, physically ill and emotionally shattered. I was becoming frightened of even going out of my house in the morning."

Repeated complaints to the police resulted in his being bound over by magistrates to keep the peace for no less than three occasions. But Smith, she said, was not to be deterred.

In evidence, he claimed he had believed the woman was interested in him, and said the Crown had exaggerated its case.

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Collector's item: The dress which Ekland wore for her wedding (above) to Peter Sellers in 1964 went on sale (right) at Christie's in London yesterday

Sixties icon puts her past on sale

Marianne Macdonald
Arts Correspondent

The short, flower-encrusted wedding dress worn by Britt Ekland for her 1964 wedding to comic Peter Sellers was put up for sale by the Swedish actress last night as part of a bid to "simplify her life". Acclaimed as one of the world's most beautiful women, she also sold photographs documenting her work as a model, marriage to Sellers and motherhood.

Many of the clothes offered by the icon, who also partnered the singer Rod Stewart, recalled her heyday in the 1960s and 1970s: long, lace frocks, sequinned ponchos and multi-coloured jerseys. Also up for grabs in the auction, held at Christie's South Kensington, were leather shoes, handbags and jewellery, a brass double bed, and Rod Stewart gold and platinum presentation discs.

Collectors could even buy a brooch outline of Ekland's lips, by sculptor John Cotter, who sold replicas in bronze, aluminium and plastic with the slogan "Shut your eyes and imagine it's Britt you're kissing".



Too many students pass with honours

Judith Judd
Education Editor

What is a graduate? Academics involved in a two-and-a-half-year study of graduate standards have had difficulty in deciding.

They have come up with a list of possible characteristics, such as the ability to analyse, investigate, create products. They also suggest that graduates might be emotionally resilient, enterprising, able to work in teams and to empathise. And, of course, they need a knowledge of their subject.

The difficulty, says the group in a report for the Higher Education Quality Council published yesterday, is that some of the attributes could equally well belong to people who have never been near a university.

While understanding the limits of a subject or knowing about contemporary research might be exclusive to graduates, critical and analytical skills are found at every level of education.

The group decided that it was impossible to come up with a single check-list of graduate characteristics, although they thought they did have something that other people lacked. Or rather they should have.

At present, the draft report says, some of those who get low-class or pass degrees do not possess distinguishing characteristics. It recommends a review of classification, establishing minimum standards which might mean that students who at present get thirds and passes would not qualify as honours graduates. There would be another system of awards below that threshold. It is the first attempt to promote nationally acceptable

thresholds in universities and to address concern about differing degree standards since the rapid expansion of the system.

Roger Brown, the council's chief executive, said: "We want to avoid the situation where certain degrees from certain institutions are not tradable currency. That is what is under strain."

Eighty per cent of students are now on honours degree courses compared with 40 per cent in the Sixties. "The balance of honours-level degrees ... seems out of line with the needs of an expanded higher education system," the report says.

It argues that there is no way of knowing "whether the standard of one degree in a given class in a given subject is comparable to that of another institution; still less whether there is comparability between subjects over the passage of time". Universities determine their own assessment policies but all use external examiners. The report says that the influence of external examiners has declined and needs strengthening.

Another proposal is that, to establish benchmarks for general skills, graduates might be given aptitude tests before going on to postgraduate study or employment such as those in use in the United States and in British business schools.

Professor John Stoddart, the council's chairman, said British universities might be accused of shooting themselves in the foot by posing some of the questions raised in the report. "Many other countries have blindfolded over their eyes. We have identified the challenges and that puts us far ahead of other countries," he said.

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DAILY POEM

From Nothing to the First of You

By Glyn Maxwell

Where Nothing wants you, wails it doesn't,
howls you into wretched hugging,
strips you from the sea to merely
sling you back half-stiff half-orphan -

When Nothing cowered and humped in coves
and mapped your mazy plunging progress,
made a boat of bone of fishbird,
wrecked it undershoe and shivered -

Something drew you, drew you on,
set down the silver bobbing throne
on somewhere, cast you cold about it,
something had become expectant -

All your evil, ice and failure,
all your slaughterous fool palaver,
rotten anger, righteously hunger,
death hot, death cold, death in armour
better this than nothing ever -

And Nothing knows it when it's lonely,
plugging progress of tomorrow's
torment in a vein of envy,
hates you with a smile while sleeping -
shakes that digging dream of something,
aches all morning of its echoes,
scratched out then out your surname
stuck in a loveheart, loving Nothing.

In August 1994 Simon Armitage and Glyn Maxwell set out for Iceland to retrace the journey made by WH Auden and Louis MacNeice 60 years previously. The result is *Moon Country* (Faber, £7.99) a prose and verse portrait of contemporary Iceland and one of the year's more imaginative travel books.

international

Tyrolese enraged by cost of the drive to unity

Steinach - High above the Austrian Alps, there are lorries in the sky. Alpen Appel, a 40-tonner, is passing through a mountain cloud. A solid line of trucks snakes over the Tyrolean village of Steinach every day, spanning a dramatic bridge, on the edge of the Brenner Pass.

"There are more and more each year," said Hubert Rauch, the mayor, who points to where trees are dying of pollution. He realises the traffic will be worse when the euro comes. As trade increases, spurred by the single market and open frontiers, the volume of goods passing through the Brenner Pass reached 30 million tons. When currency barriers fall, traffic is expected to double by 2020.

Not only is this shattering the peace and ecology, it is also shattering Austrian support for the euro and the EU. Its new Austrian "citizens" see that the leaders pushing through the single currency have no intention of paying for improved transit networks or enforcing environmental protection.

Recently Neil Kinnock, the EU transport commissioner,

In her second report on monetary union Sarah Helm meets some Austrian sceptics

saw the Brenner problem, from a helicopter. But his proposals for a £3.5bn rail tunnel have been shelved, because no country wants to pay, particularly when member-states are cutting back to meet the Maastricht criteria for the single currency.

At Steinach, all the contradictions of Europe's drive for political and monetary union are writ large. Increased trade has benefited the Austrian Tyrol, which depends heavily on links with Bavaria and northern Italy. There is a *de facto* common currency, as traders take line, shillings or marks. The Austrian and Italian Tyrolean regions recently banded together as a "Euroregion".

Insbruck hanks will lose

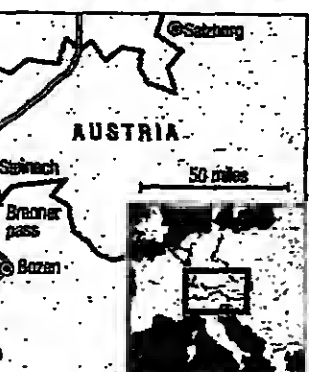
2,000 jobs when exchange-rate transactions end but they support the euro overall. Mr Rauch admits he went shopping in Italy when the lira was cheap but he also welcomed the exchange rate mechanism. A stronger lira may stop his trips but it should also stop German tourists by-passing Austrian resorts like his for Italian ones.

The merits of a barrier-free Europe, are, however, countered by the attractions of protectionism in Austria. When 66 per cent of people voted "yes" to Europe in the 1994 referendum, many said they did so because they felt they had no choice but to join after years of living shoulder-to-shoulder with



the former Soviet bloc. Now they doubt the benefits as Vienna imposes "Euro taxes" to meet the Maastricht criteria.

In the Tyrol, the traffic problem makes people reappraise



the value of economic and physical barriers. Switzerland barred lorries over 28 tons, which means the juggernauts are funnelled through Austria. When Austria decided to raise

the toll on lorries through the Brenner Pass, the European Commission launched proceedings against it for breaching single-market rules. "People are making the connection between the traffic problem and Europe," said Fritz Staudigl, an official in Innsbruck. "They see goods being carried for miles ... And they are asking: 'What's the point? Why should we suffer so Swedes can have Italian grapes in winter?'"

The Tyrolese also question European agricultural policies. They want to know why German over-production of meat and milk should be forcing such large Bavarian exports to Italy. There is also anxiety about illegal immigration.

Three hundred customs officers from the Brenner area have lost their jobs since EU membership. Soon Austria is to join the Schengen agreement, which means ending all passport checks at its EU frontiers. At the Brenner, according to rumours in Steinach, 20 illegal immigrants are stopped a day.

Austria's fears about the euro are most commonly voiced in the simplest ways. People are scared of losing their strong currency. "People ... remember how they lost their savings during the post-war hyper-inflation," said Mr Staudigl. "Older people still talk of how they sold a house and found they could only buy a loaf of bread."

Romcorrow, Northern Italy



High anxiety: The Tyrol is paying heavily for integration, with traffic through the Brenner Pass likely to double by 2020

God 'ordered' women's deaths

Mary Brail
Johannesburg

Exactly four years after the brutal murder of two British women on a South African beach, a 26-year-old man has confessed to the killings. Elias Naom Sibuya told a court in Durban he hacked and stabbed the holidaymakers Julie Godwin and Elizabeth Over, both 30, because God had deemed it "the day on which they were supposed to die".

His court appearance came after he turned himself over to the police at the weekend. Mr Sibuya claimed the timing was deliberate. Overcome with remorse after the attack, he said he had begged God for a period of four years.

Speaking through an interpreter, Mr Sibuya calmly described how he attacked the women with a bushknife and a spear in their station-wagon at Nine Mile beach on the Maputaland coast.

Their naked and wounded bodies were washed up, just hours later, near the Mozambique border.

He had robbed the women but four months after the attack he said he felt so guilty he burnt everything he had stolen along with his weapons and clothes. After that he had felt closer to God and begged him to be patient until the victims' families had forgotten their sorrow.

Mr Sibuya did not request legal representation at the hearing and said he would accept any punishment. He said he was just walking on the beach when he saw the women and "that was when everything began to happen". The magistrate ordered him to see the district surgeon and he was remanded in custody until 22 December.

Ms Over and Mrs Godwin, mother of a 23-month-old girl, had been friends for more than 11 years. Ms Over, from St Albans, Hertfordshire, had recently moved to South Africa to work as an advertising executive in Durban. Mrs Godwin, from Spratton, Northamptonshire, was to have been joined by her husband Tim and her daughter later on the trip.

Chirac says Europe needs its own spy satellite, free of US

Mary Dejevsky
Paris

France wants Europe to develop its own spy satellite facility as a "necessary precondition for achieving strategic autonomy", President Jacques Chirac said yesterday. Underlining the desire of the Gaullist government for a European defence capacity that could operate independently of the

United States, Mr Chirac said he also favoured the inclusion of defence structures within the European Union.

He was speaking on the second day of the annual assembly of the West European Union, the political arm of Nato in Europe, just a year after France announced its decision to rejoin most Nato structures. He was the first French president ever to address the 48-year-old organisation.

France and Germany are already co-operating on the development of a reconnaissance satellite. But Mr Chirac's proposal went further, calling for a "real European capability in space intelligence" and making it clear this was needed for "strategic autonomy".

The lack of its own satellite reconnaissance capacity makes Europe entirely dependent on the US for military operations abroad. Eu-

rope's other main deficiency is the lack of large military transport planes. Mr Chirac did not mention this, though he did appeal for the embryonic European defence agency (currently comprising France, Germany, Britain and Italy) to become "a competitive industrial and technological base".

These were two of four points Mr Chirac set out as France's programme for its presidency of the WEU which

begins next January. The others were the streamlining of current armed forces co-operation in Europe - which currently includes the mainly Franco-German Eurocorps and the mainly Franco-British European Air Group - and closer co-operation in operational planning between the WEU and Nato.

The tenor of Mr Chirac's speech, with its strong emphasis on European

defence autonomy, appeared to offer at least half an answer to a question widely posed when France rejoined Nato last year. Was its return an acceptance that in the post-Cold War world it needed the shelter of the Atlantic Alliance, or did it see its membership as a stage towards the creation of stronger European pillar within Nato which could eventually become an autonomous defence alliance?

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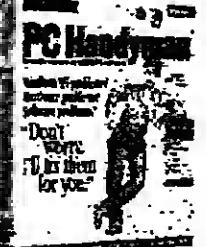
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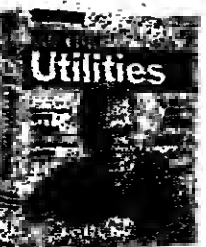
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Encouragingly, Sir George Young, our Secretary of State for Transport agrees with us.

Whilst giving evidence to the Transport Select Committee earlier this year, Sir George said:

"We will not simply roll over and accept the US version of liberalisation, known misleadingly in my opinion as 'open skies', which is clearly designed to tilt the market in favour of US airlines. We shall be seeking a new air service agreement which gives our carriers an opportunity to compete with US carriers on equal terms."

So how *unequal* are the terms at the moment?

What the Americans want is to be able to fly as many US aircraft as they like into Britain's airports, and then to pick up passengers in Britain and fly them on to Europe and the rest of the world. (Which would be fine if there were enough take off and landing slots.)

But what the Americans aren't prepared to give the UK is the right to land at US airports and then fly passengers on to other destinations in the US.

Nor are they prepared to give up any of the incredibly protectionist laws limiting the UK's right to invest in US airlines. Even though the US is already allowed to invest in the UK's airlines.

Nor are they even prepared to give up their one sided policy that dictates that US Government people must fly only on US airlines.

In fact the only so called concession that the American Government is prepared to make has nothing to do with 'open skies' at all.

It is to sanction the monopolistic merger between British Airways and American Airlines.

A merger that would normally be deemed illegal by the Americans because it is so anti-competitive. Especially as between them BA and AA control the lion's share of Heathrow's take off and landing slots.

In short, this is not an 'open' but a 'closed skies' deal. It offers nothing for the flying public. But it does offer a juicy monopoly for two of the world's biggest airlines.

We urge Sir George Young to stick to his guns, and negotiate a deal that will create a level playing field for all Britain's airlines, and that won't disadvantage either the British or American flying public.

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Australian public back move to republic

Robert Miliken
Sydney

A new opinion poll in Australia has revealed for the first time there is sufficient public support to change the constitution to make the country a republic.

Published yesterday in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*, of Melbourne, the poll showed 55 per cent of Australians want to replace the

force, only eight of 42 proposals to amend it have passed popular referendums. But, according to the opinion poll, Tasmania is the only state where republicans are still in a minority, at 46 per cent. In New South Wales their support stands at 57 per cent.

The latest republican opinion poll has put renewed pressure on the federal government, led by John Howard, to press ahead with its election promise to stage a convention next year as a first step towards holding a referendum on a republic by 2000.

Mr Howard is a monarchist, who has shown every sign of trying to sweep republicanism under the carpet since his conservative coalition government's election last March. But republicans, including MPs in the Liberal Party, which Mr Howard leads, have called on him to honour his promise.

At a republican rally attended by 2,000 people in Sydney on Sunday, Gladys Berejiklian, president of the Young Liberals in New South Wales, urged Mr Howard to hold a referendum.

Robert Hughes, the Australian author and critic, told the audience: "There is nothing, absolutely nothing, Australian about our present head of state, the reigning British monarch. The monarch's role as the simultaneous head of state of Great Britain and Australia had its obvious uses when the interests of the two nations overlapped and were in essence the same. But today they are not always the same and, in the coming century, they will be less so."

Republicanism crosses party lines and among Australians aged between 25 and 54, support stands at 60 per cent.

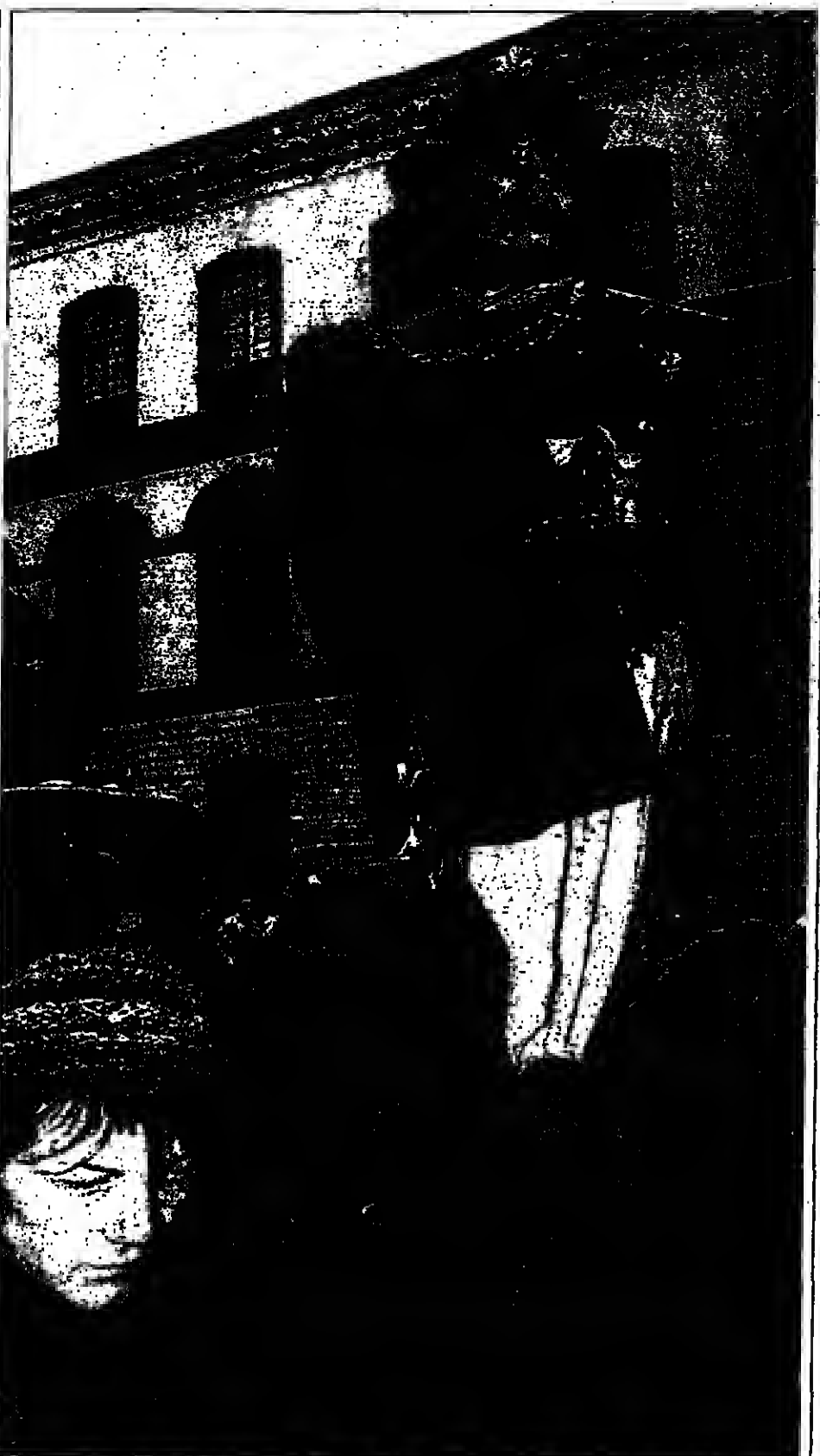


John Howard: Promised to hold convention on republic

Queen with an Australian president as their head of state, a rise of 4 per cent since a similar poll was taken last year.

More significant is the fact that a majority of voters in five of Australia's six states want a republic. This is the crucial test that republicans would have to pass in order to change the country's constitution. For it to be altered, a referendum needs not only an overall majority of votes but also a majority vote in at least four of the six states.

This has made the constitution notoriously hard to change. Since 1901, when it came into



Dummy run: Students with an effigy of Milijana Markovic, wife of Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic, during a demonstration yesterday in Belgrade. Photograph: AFP

Russian roulette as casino comes to the backwaters

Helen Womack reports on a post-Soviet route to success

Yelets — The local newspaper reporter declined the black caviar sandwiches offered by Gennady Savenkov, arms-trader-turned-casino-owner, catering for the few people with money in the depressed central Russian town of Yelets. "I do not want to be dependent on that man," he said.

But a sandwich consumed will hardly inhibit your correspondent from telling the truth about the Ph. Club, or as much of the truth as one can ever establish in this land of absurdity.

Depending on whom you ask, Mr Savenkov is either a greedy villain or a hero struggling for the right to free enterprise in one of the most staunchly Communist pockets of the provinces. But nobody is indifferent to "Papa Genna", whose taste for nylon sports suits belies his wealth and power.

He admits to having spent "big money" financing the political opponents of the Communist-leaning mayor of Yelets, Viktor Sokolov, so far to no avail. Mr Sokolov remains in office, "putting up endless bureaucratic obstacles to enterprising businessmen", as the casino-owner says.

But Mr Savenkov has had one victory as the regional court has just overruled the mayor and allowed him to register the Ph Club (Ph for Phoenix). "Seventy per cent of my energy goes into the war with the mayor. But thank God there are some people who respect the law," he said as he welcomed the press to his leisure complex.

A sauna and restaurant are still being built but the casino is already in full swing — by Yelets' standards. In other words, at 10 o'clock last Thursday night, two clients were moving from the poker table to the roulette wheel, from the roulette wheel to the black jack table, attended by a veritable army of croupiers, cocktail waitresses and security guards.

"It gets busier," Mr Savenkov said, sipping a champagne cocktail. "We are already breaking even. Rich people come from Lipetsk, Voronezh and Moscow. Typically, they play with up to \$2,000 a night. But yes, I have to admit, you can count the number of wealthy people in Yelets on the fingers of one hand."

There is no doubt that Mr Savenkov is the fattest finger. A former army officer who helped carry out the state trade in weapons to Soviet clients such as Angola, Ethiopia and Iraq, he made his undisclosed per-

I admit, you can count the number of wealthy people on the fingers of one hand'

sonal fortune by opening a network of petrol stations on the road to Moscow. "Undiluted petrol" is his slogan.

With his petrol business, he is indeed providing a public service for. Before him, a driver who did not have the foresight to fill his tank in Moscow, 400 km to the north, could find himself spending the night in his car on the empty road, waiting for someone with a canister to take pity on him. Now, instead of motorists begging for petrol, the road is lined with people selling vases and television sets, the left-over production from bankrupt local factories.

Unemployment in the town is high. Giving work to 250 people, Mr Savenkov is proud to

call himself a major employer. How much this man, who has a four-storey country house and a fleet of cars, pays his workers is "one of my secrets".

Galya, a cocktail waitress whose dark make-up gave her eyes a bruised look, was sullen. "I'm always unhappy. I have an unhappy personality," she said. Natasha, a trained nurse-turned-croupier, was more cheerful. "If they have earned the money, they have the right to throw it away," she said, when I asked what she thought of the clients.

The players that night were sportsman Boris Grigoriev, who has been entered 17 times in the *Guinness Book of Records* for feats of strength, and his girlfriend, Vera. "We have been bit-ten by the gambling bug," laughed Vera, adding that the couple usually spent about \$100 a time.

"The players are sick. They are like alcoholics. I do not pity them," commented the owner, who said he never gambled himself and drank only in moderation. Whom did he pity? "Children," he said, adding that he gave some of his money to charity. For example, the local ambulance service received his petrol free of charge.

But he admitted he found as many ways as possible to reduce his tax burden. "The taxes are too high in this country," he said. "The authorities are cutting the branch on which we sit."

Did he fear the rich could be swept away in a new Russian revolution? "Russia will not go Communist again," he said. Then after a moment's thought, he added: "Of course, I was a Communist once myself, you know." Gennady Savenkov is a survivor, a man who will adapt and thrive whichever politicians are in power.

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Massacre marks new low point in Algerian war

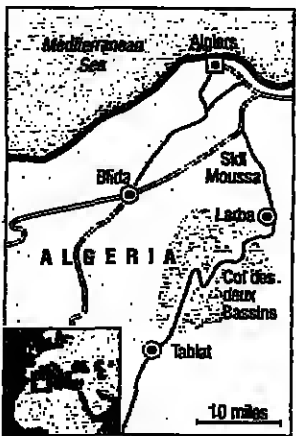
Algiers — We were sitting in the mess at Harrache when the first explosion changed the air pressure in the room. The commandant looked at his colleague, then at us. "It's not a bomb," he said with absolute confidence. Then there was a second clap of sound and the corporal at the window said: "Bomb." On the table, the military radio crackled into a mixture of French and machine-gun-speed Algerian Arabic. "A fourth explosion!" — "A fifth!" From all over the city of Algiers, the gendarmes were reporting what they could hear. The air pressure stood again and put his kepi on. Then the radio told him what he wanted to hear. "It's a security forces operation at Sidi Mousa."

In the warm winter sunshine outside the barracks, the blast of rocket-propelled grenades was unmistakable. The security forces have a terrorist group surrounded, the commandant said. Several gendarmes had gathered in the barrack square, all looking south-west towards the village of Sidi Mousa, invisible through the pale haze below the mountains. Algeria's war was out of sight but not out of mind; and certainly not out of earshot. Three motor-cycle cops — back on the roads these past four months for

INSIDE ALGERIA

Robert Fisk

the first time in more than four years — roared into the compound. "Things have improved," the commandant insisted. "Only a few months



ago, all our men would have to have been in armoured vehicles."

But from the villages beyond Sidi Mousa, on the road from Larba to Tablat, terrible stories are emerging, more frightful than any that have yet come out of Algeria's secret war. The Islamic Armed Group (GIA), one rumour says, moved into the villages on the Col des Deux

Bassins — on the steep hillside of the Mitidja — and cut the throats of up to a hundred men, women and children at the weekend. "The government doesn't want the news out yet because it will cast a bad reflection on last week's constitutional referendum," an Algerian businessman had told us two hours earlier. "This is the most savage crime I have ever heard of." If true, it would be the most horrible atrocity yet committed in the Algerian war, worse than this month's throat-cutting at Sidi el-Kebir, comparable to the epic massacres of the 1954-62 war of independence against France.

But is it true? Not a word has appeared in the government-controlled press, save for a dramatic account — third-person and with no quoted eyewitnesses — of the "liquidation" of a GIA unit of 12 men near Ghardaia. Ouled Aberdi, the district "emir" of the GIA group in the "wilaya" (governorate) of Ghardaia, had been "annihilated", according to *Le Matin*. The throat-cutters who had savaged the villagers of Bouferkine were no more. No prisoners. It was a familiar story.

And when we asked the com-

mandant about reports of the Col des Deux Bassins massacre, he raised his eyebrows. "We received information that four men from Sonagaz [the Algerian state gas company] had their throats cut around there. Nothing more." But even among the Algiers gendarmes,

The government doesn't want the news out ... it will cast a bad reflection on the referendum

the barbarism of this war comes through. Just in passing, the commandant mentions to us that the "Islamists", "thieves as much as terrorists", he calls them — have run short of ammunition. "We find their Kalashnikovs and lots of Israeli-made Uzi automatic weapons, but no bullets," he says. Could that be, I ask, why they cut so many throats, to save ammunition? The commandant leans across the table and points at me. "Exactly," he replies. And then — another aside, a passing comment — he adds: "They

don't only use knives to cut throats now. They are using saws, wood-cutters' saws, to cut the throats of their prisoners."

"Don't believe the stories that the GIA has been infiltrated," another officer says. "If it had been, we would have won the war by now. A year ago, at the presidential elections, they pardoned about 1000 prisoners and let them out of jail. Many were intimidated back into the GIA. They've just freed another 600 men and we've been told to keep an eye on them. But they live outside Blida and it's hard enough to get into some of those places, let alone watch the guys we want to watch."

Back in the capital, the stories start again. There are another 21 dead civilians in a village south of the capital, an Algerian journalist says. Another 11 people were slaughtered in Baraki at the weekend. At least one GIA group is retreating through the Mitidja hills, setting mines behind them.

And I remember what the commandant said as we sipped coffee in his mess. "I saw a schoolgirl in the Blida morgue who had had her throat cut. I don't know if it's true what they said, that her murderers cut 'GIA' on her hand. I didn't see her hands. But I saw her head. They had almost completely severed it from her body."

Burma protest arrests

Rangoon, Burma (AP) — The military government blamed "political elements" yesterday for inciting one of Burma's largest protests in years. An unknown number of protesters are thought to be in detention.

Police, meanwhile, erected roadblocks on streets leading to pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's home, stopping journalists in the Burmese capital from meeting her. It was unknown how long the barriers would remain in place.

There appeared to be no clear link between the demonstration by about 1,000 students on Monday and Ms Suu Kyi's movement, though the Nobel Peace Prize winner was quoted by the BBC as saying they had a shared opposition to injustice.

The protesters, mostly from the Rangoon Institute of Technology, had staged a sit-in at Rangoon University and had marched around the capital all night, at one point stopping outside the US Embassy.

They seemed divided between those stressing civil freedoms and human rights and the majority stressing non-political demands, such as urging the government to grant students more independence and investigate police brutality.

Ms Suu Kyi said yesterday: "I would like the world to know that the repression in Burma is getting worse."



Protest flag: Rangoon Institute of Technology students staging an all-night rally in the city. Photograph: Reuters

significant shorts

Serbs gag last independent radio station

Serbian authorities shut Belgrade's only independent radio station amid a wave of protests against President Slobodan Milosevic.

Radio B-92's transmitter, which, unlike state broadcasters, gave wide coverage to the rallies, was switched off, the editor, Veran Matić, said. A letter from the communication ministry said it was operating illegally. The crackdown came despite Western appeals to protect independent media and showed the Milosevic government was taking an increasingly tough line to halt street demonstrations. *Reuters - Belgrade*

Herzog's son in casino scandal

Joel Herzog, the son of the former president of Israel, is on remand in a French prison in connection with a casino corruption case involving the mayor of Cannes. Mr Herzog, whose Swiss company owns the Riviera casino at the Noga Hilton in the resort, was detained for questioning on Monday. The mayor, Michel Moullot, is also in prison, accused of taking bribes for granting casino licences. *Mary Dejeny - Paris*

U-turn on mercy killing

A son of the first man to commit legally sanctioned euthanasia is now fighting the law that allowed his father to end his own life. Rod Dent, 40, supported legalised mercy killing immediately after his father Bob, 66, became the first terminally ill patient to commit suicide, on 22 September, under a Northern Territory law that permits doctor-assisted mercy killing — the first of its kind in the world.

But Mr Dent said he now believes that his father, who was suffering from prostate cancer, would not have killed himself if he had had access to proper palliative care. Australia's Federal Parliament is considering a Bill which, if passed, would override the territory's legislation. *AP - Canberra*

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Rebels poised to attack towns in Zaire

Zairian rebels have surrounded the three major towns in north-eastern Zaire remaining in government hands and will soon attack them, a rebel leader said.

Jean Kabongo, a senior member of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation (Congo-Zaire), said his troops have surrounded Kisangani, Zaire's fifth-largest city. *AP - Goma*

New governor for Gibraltar

Britain yesterday appointed the former Foreign Office minister Sir Richard Luce as governor of Gibraltar, the first time in nearly 300 years the post has gone to a non-military man.

Gibraltarians interpret the appointment as a further step in the drawdown of Britain's military presence on the Rock, and the prelude to clearer political exchanges between Gibraltar, London and Madrid. One commentator expressed relief that Sir Richard was an experienced politician and not a career diplomat.

Sir Richard, who stood down from parliament in the 1992 elections, resigned as Minister of State in 1982, along with his boss Lord Carrington, on the outbreak of the Falklands war. *Elizabeth Nash - Madrid*

Iran to ban Western words

Iran may soon step up its campaign to wipe out Western cultural influences with a Bill that bans the use of Western terms.

The Bill — the Prohibition of Usage of Foreign Names, Words and Expressions — received preliminary approval last year. It requires government and non-government institutions to refrain from using Western terms in their reports, speeches, correspondence and interviews. *Reuters - Tehran*

Saudis seize aphrodisiacs

Saudi Arabia has seized banned chewing gum and drops that claimed to improve male sexual performance, a Saudi newspaper reported.

The stimulants, sold discreetly by pharmacies run by "weak souls" in the conservative Muslim kingdom, were apparently smuggled from Israel, the daily *al-Aqabah* said.

Last year, Saudi Arabia executed four Turks for trying to smuggle aphrodisiac drugs into the country. *Reuters - Dubai*

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international

Chinese to evict migrant families

Teresa Poole
Peking

The ability of an army of migrant workers to slip through the net of China's tough population controls has prompted a crackdown in the booming southern city of Shenzhen, where 906 migrant families are being thrown out of town with two weeks' notice because they have exceeded the permitted birth rate.

The Peking Economic Daily yesterday reported that the Shenzhen city authorities had confiscated the migrants' residence certificates, revoked their labour permits and business licences, and ordered the housing department to stop renting apartments and shops to them.

All city residents in China must have a *hukou*, or household registration, and when migrants arrive and settle in an urban area they must obtain a temporary registration. The 906 families will probably return to their rural home villages, or move to another coastal city.

The penalty for breaking family-planning regulations can be severe. In impoverished areas, peasants face having their houses demolished. In cities, punishments are heavy fines and demotion at work. In April this year, a Peking court fined one couple 50,000 yuan (£4,000) for having a second child. Human rights groups have documented cases of forced abortions and sterilizations.

The government is desperate to make sure China's population does not exceed 1.3 billion by 2000. The strict population-control policy permits one child per couple in cities, and usually two in the countryside. However, China has up to 100 million rural workers who over the past decade have moved into the cities and fast-growing coastal regions where work in

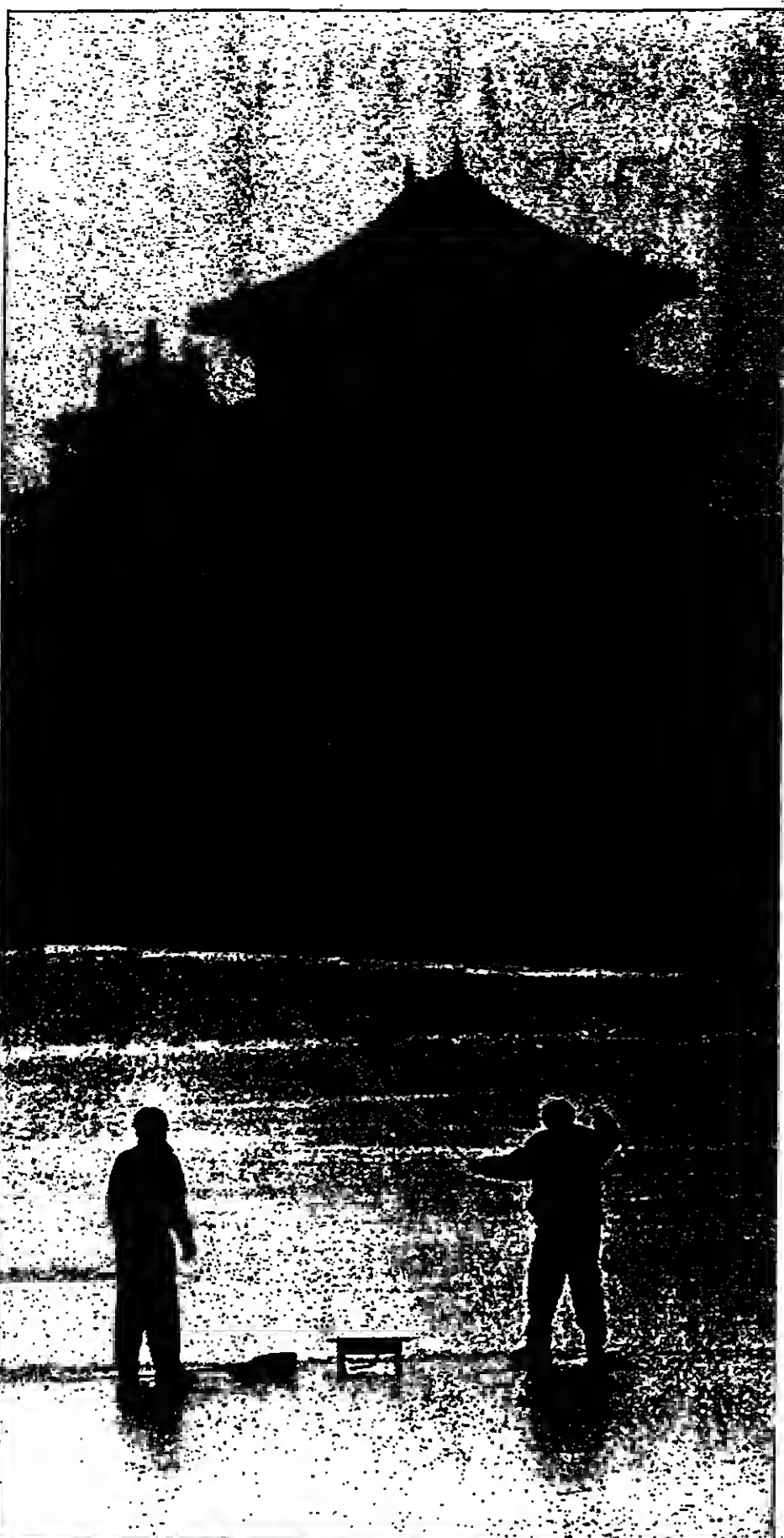
factories and construction sites is available. Their mobility has meant they have escaped many of the family-planning restrictions imposed on the indigenous city population and static rural inhabitants.

Wang Guoqing, the Family Planning Commission policy director, said: "The transient population in keeps growing because most members in this group are of reproductive age, and many stay away from their home towns for a long time."

According to regulations, the migrant worker's home town and his or her new place of residence in theory share responsibility for compliance with family planning regulations. In practice, neither is likely to be monitoring the situation. Migrant workers often rent accommodation through private landlords, and move from job to job, escaping the strict vigilance of permanent city residents who must obtain permission from their "work units" to marry or to get pregnant.

The fact that the Shenzhen case was reported in the Peking Economic Daily probably means the city government is eager to demonstrate to Peking that it is cracking down on illicit births. Shenzhen, bordering Hong Kong and the site of China's first Special Economic Zone, is one of the richest parts of the country. In such regions, wealthy rural families are now opting to pay the fines or the bribes necessary in order to enable them to have more children.

China's family planning programme has been widely criticized by Western countries for its punitive nature. Over the past year, the government has admitted it has failed to convince peasant families of the benefits of fewer children, and now says it is putting more emphasis on linking family planning to alleviation of poverty.



Winter sport: Two hopefuls join enthusiasts at the most around Peking's Forbidden City yesterday for the start of the highly popular ice-fishing season. Photograph: AFP

Peking alarmed as illegal school fees force pupils to quit

Ansi — In Chengnan township, north-west China, Kang Xisai was one of the casualties of China's cash-strapped rural education system. He did not start school until he was nine years old because his family was "too poor" to afford the fees, he said. And when his parents finally scraped together the money, there was only the basic village school, with just three teachers.

During the early Communist era in China, rudimentary schooling was provided free to the nation's children as part of the so-called "iron rice bowl" welfare system. It was not fancy, but at least it was free. But when economic reform took hold in the Eighties, the schools found themselves desperate for money. State funding was no longer sufficient, and even when money was available it was often illegally diverted by local governments away from schools and into speculative business schemes. Across the country, including the poorest areas, parents were suddenly introduced to a new concept — the bill for school fees.

Aware of growing resentment, especially in poor rural regions, China has now launched a nationwide inspection of all schools to stop widespread overcharging of fees. It is commonplace for parents to be charged for anything from tuition, books, desk space, electricity and heating, even to rubbish disposal.

The government is alarmed at the large number of children, especially girls, in poor rural areas who have dropped out of school because of illegal fees charged by a rundown rural education system. The inspection of fees in primary and middle schools will "protect social stability," the *People's Daily* said last month.

While China has become much richer over the past decade, government spending has slowly declined as a proportion of gross national product to just 2.46 per cent in 1995, well below the target of 4 per cent. And not all that money ends up where it should; the State Education Commission

Nationwide inspection is launched to stem emptying of classes in poor regions. Teresa Poole reports

earlier this year accused officials of diverting money to "the construction of auditoriums, amusement halls, [and] hotels". Last June, according to the National People's Congress, unpaid teachers' salaries amounted to 290 million yuan (£23.2m).

By law, children should have at least nine years' education in China, but in rural areas this is rarely the reality. Kang is now a very short and thin 13-year-old. He has only one set of

Parents are charged for tuition, books, desk space, heating, even rubbish disposal

clothes — a dirty jacket, frayed trousers, and an old waistcoat with broken buttons. He must go the whole winter without washing, because there is only the freezing river. But in one important respect, Kang's life has taken a big step in the right direction: he now goes to a proper school.

Since it opened last year, Kang has attended the charity-aided Pinghu Hope School in Chengnan township, just five miles from his home in the impoverished north of Shaanxi province. This is part of Project Hope, a state-backed charity set up in 1989 to get drop-outs back to school, especially in the countryside. Project Hope has opened more than 2,500 rural schools mostly in north-west and south-west China, and claims to have returned 1.25 million children to the classroom.

The three-storey Pinghu school was sponsored by a township in Shenzhen, the

booming southern region next to Hong Kong. It put in 300,000 yuan (£24,000), and the Ansi county government provided double that amount. Now the school has almost 1,000 pupils between seven and thirteen years old, two-thirds of them from local peasant villages.

Gao Qi, a teacher, said: "In the past, before this school, some children only finished grade three or four, and then dropped out."

The headteacher, Yang Ting, 39, added: "It is because parents do not think that education is very important, so the kids just help the parents working in the household or field instead of going to school."

The Hope schools, one likes to assume, are the least likely to be ripping off their students by charging extra fees. The official rate at Pinghu is 28 yuan (£2) per term for tuition, and about 40 yuan (£3) a year for textbooks. But even this apparently low level of charges is not negligible in an area where, according to the headmaster, annual per capita income is just 800 yuan (£64). In this very poor area of China, Pinghu school still relies on parents to provide one-third of the annual budget through their fees. Young Kang said that his parents still found it "difficult" to pay.

Nor has Pinghu escaped financial constraints. There are at least 60 children per class, and the teachers all have to share one classroom. The headmaster groaned: "We don't have enough classrooms, and if we employ more teachers we will have financial difficulties. We can't get more money from the county government."

Young Kang, however, is one satisfied customer who now has a goal which would have been unthinkable 18 months ago. "My family will try their best to send me to middle school," he boasted.

Bosnia risks foreign-aid drought

Reuters — Bosnia's ethnic communities will receive only a trickle of foreign aid to help rebuild their shattered country unless they start complying with the terms of the Dayton peace treaty, British officials said yesterday.

The officials, speaking the day before the start of a London conference, to be attended by

foreign ministers and aid agency representatives, to take stock of the year-old Bosnian peace process, said the nation's Serb Republic and the Muslim-Croat Federation were badly behind the schedule agreed at Dayton a year ago.

"Those [Bosnian] entities that do not follow those requirements will find themselves

at a disadvantage when it comes to other areas of implementation," an official said.

The various sides were hampering freedom of movement, the officials added, preventing refugees from returning home, committing human rights abuses, refusing to hand over war criminals and not complying with arms-control reductions.

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Scrutiny is the best recipe for avoiding food scares

There's nothing like a little tampering with nature to set the public panicking. From the Bible to Shakespeare, from Jehovah's Witnesses to organic food enthusiasts, our history and culture drip with the notion that the natural order knows best. Myths of nature's vengeance run deep. The rot began in Hamlet's Denmark because Ham's mum upturned the royal and family order. Prometheus endured the wrath of Zeus because he dared disrupt the human and godly order by stealing fire for human use. Throughout our history and mythology, human beings have been punished when they arrogantly overstepped the line to organise the world for their own convenience.

So-called modern diseases such as repetitive strain injury and chronic fatigue syndrome are explained away as the self-inflicted consequences of our hectic lifestyle. Cancers are attributed to everything from nuclear power to pesticides, but always to man-made, "unnatural" phenomena. When the focus is food, we become even more emotional. After all, (apart, perhaps, from sex) nothing is more central to our culture than eating and to our most important social rituals. The idea that we can be poisoned by performing one of the most basic and simply pleasurable of animal acts confuses us deeply. So, most recently, the BSE disaster has lent support to the "nature-is-sacred" point of view. After all, BSE might

never have spread had bovine herbivores not been forced to become cannibalistic carnivores.

No wonder then that the prospect of genetically engineered food raises such suspicion. Here we go tampering again. Already we find that genetically engineered maize fed to cows could jeopardise the safety of our beef. What further dark forces will we unleash if we meddle with DNA?

The problem is, we cannot blame science for food health scares - we can only blame ourselves. The problem lies not in our science, but with our lifestyle and our public institutions. Yet twisting and tweaking the genes of the supermarket tomatoes should be no more controversial than any other form of scientific research. Like any other product - a new medicine, a pesticide, a new sweetener - these genetic vegetables should undergo strict and rigorous testing. However, if the research delivers something that works, such as cheap but tasty tomatoes available all year round, then we should welcome it with enthusiasm. Scientific progress has brought us cheap food of countless varieties, widening our choice and helping many of us live healthier and more interesting lives. The fact that meat and vegetables are intensively farmed is exactly what makes them affordable, and allows many busy people on tight budgets to maintain a balanced diet, and allows less well-off people

to spend more of their money on other things.

But that doesn't mean we don't have a genuine and growing food problem. We do. Food poisoning cases are on the increase; from 63,000 in 1992 to 82,000 in 1994. Even if people are becoming more willing to report their bowel movements to public health officials these days, this is a significant increase.

Who or what is the real culprit for our bubbling gastric troubles? One factor is our changing expectations. Most cases of food poisoning are still a result of easily avoidable mistakes in the kitchen: using the same knives for



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cooked and uncooked food, not cooking food for long enough, reheating food that should really be thrown away. The mistakes we make in our own kitchens poison only ourselves and our families and rarely get reported.

But these days we eat out far more often, trusting our stomachs to the hygiene of hard-pressed cooks in low-paid, low-profit industries. When that Indian restaurant reheats the madras, when the pizza chef slams the cooked margarita down next to the uncooked chicken, when cooks in a hurry cut corners, customers pay the price in a night's lost sleep or a few days' miserable dis-

comfort. The same is true in institutions, including schools and colleges: low-paid kitchen staff heat cook-chill lunches against the clock. In the circumstances, it would be a wonder if children didn't get food poisoning occasionally.

For most of us, food poisoning is little more than a minor inconvenience. The risks of chopping our way to severe gastric trouble remain small. *E. coli*, the bacteria that has killed several people in Lanarkshire, remains rare. Nevertheless, for the young and the elderly food poisoning can be fatal. If we wish to improve public monitoring, and to prevent our food problems growing even worse than they already are, we must insist on more alert scrutiny by trading officers and health officials.

Perhaps most important, however, we should take government responsibility for food out of the hands of the producers. We can't even start to improve the food we eat in our own kitchens if we aren't given full information by a government acting in our interests. Unfortunately the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food still operates in the interests of the farmers and the food producers rather than consumers. We all remember Cordelia Gummer - daughter of the agriculture minister, not the health minister - wailing down hamburgers to defuse the rumours about BSE. When Edwina Currie as health minister spoke out about salmonella in eggs, the Maff

brayed for blood - and they got it. Salmonella cases went on rising even after Edwina was sacked.

Poisoned food in Britain is not the crisis it sometimes seems. For most of us, the advances in convenience and access outweigh the dangers. We are certainly not the prey of a ruthless scientific-corporate establishment, ruining our food in pursuit of profit. Nor are most of us ever at risk of contracting anything worse than a gippy tummy. But our public health is certainly worse than it need be, thanks to carelessness, ignorance and an inappropriate system of supervision.

Let livers set the office party limit

Why do we need to reinvent old rituals? One is the bacchanalian madness otherwise known as the annual office party. But if employee libido runs as free as the red wine at Christmas, should employers get excited, too? It's a danger zone, says Trish Embley, an employment law specialist. Managers, she says, should stop things getting out of hand. But isn't that the whole point? To be indecorous, out of order and generally wicked? As long as no windows or laws get broken, propriety, lust and livers should be left to look after themselves. For once, it's none of the bosses' business.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Real 'pro-life' agenda more than abortion

Sir: If there is to be a major debate here on "pro-life" issues, I hope it will include a decent definition of what "pro-life" actually means.

It often means merely opposition to abortion and euthanasia, but "pro-life" must include campaigning for disabled people's rights and opposition to the death penalty. How can we expect people to value the humanity of the unborn if we are not prepared to respect the value of the born, no matter what they have done?

The "pro-life" agenda must also value single mothers. Why should women be penalised for making the brave decision to keep the child? With both pro- and anti-abortion surveys in the United States showing that lack of support from the father is the primary reason for having an abortion, should not pro-life campaigners promote increased male responsibility?

Then perhaps it will be possible to reduce the abortion rate even without reform of the Abortion Act. IMOGEN CATERER Gloucester

Sir: "Abortion politics sweep into Britain" (report, 30 November). And about time. About time we had an open debate about the whole business.

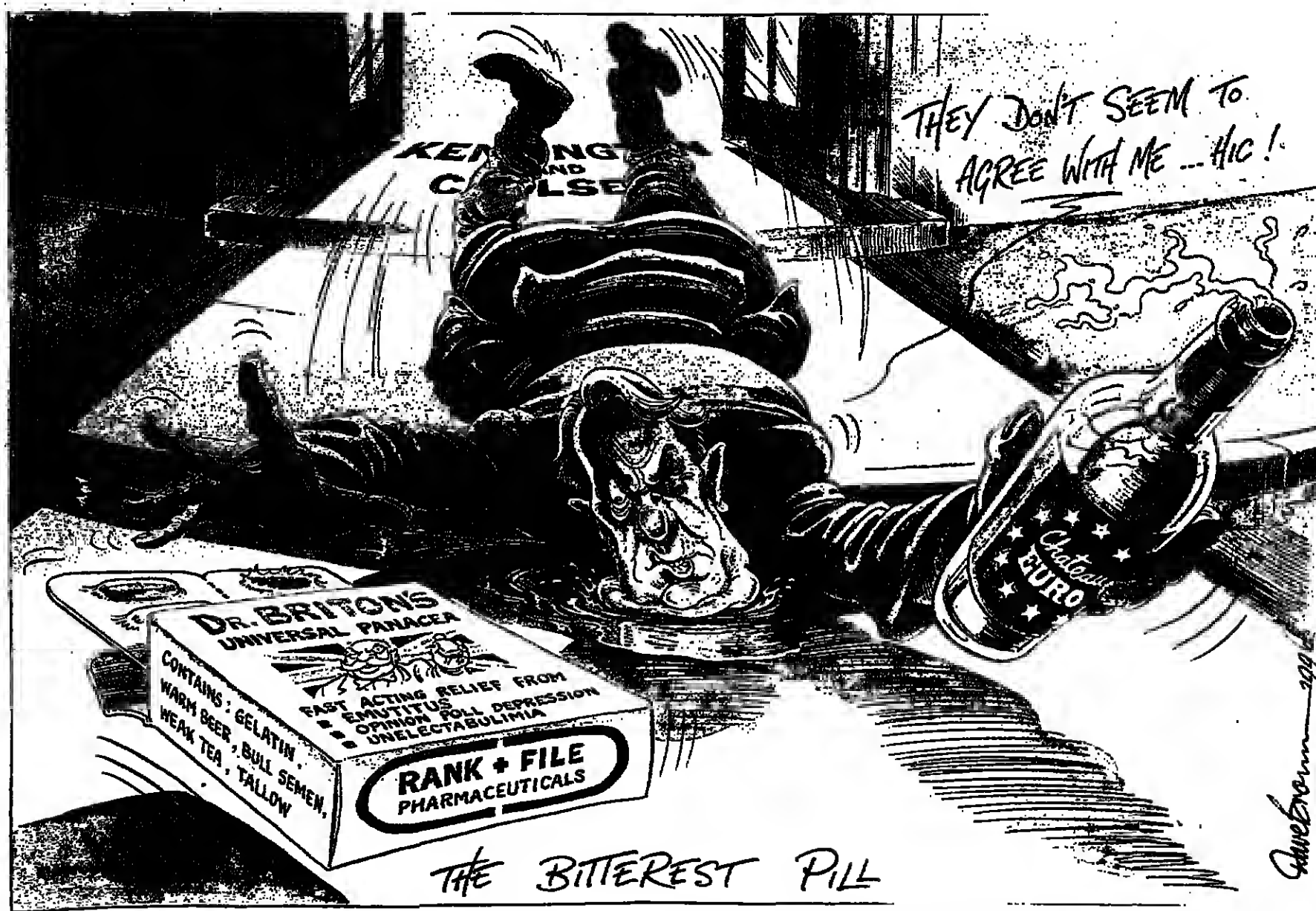
The Birth Control Trust think the sight of an abortion is "gruesome". They are right. Killing another human being is always a horrible thing. Of course the pro-choice lobby want it all kept safely out of sight. Does that make it all right? Does keeping abortion out of politics, as the Prime Minister wants, make it right?

We are living in a survival-of-the-fittest society - a culture that increasingly claims it is legitimate to pick off the weak and the inconvenient. In Nazi Germany, psychiatric patients were considered inconvenient, and thousands were put to death. It was done legally, it was done behind closed doors and it was done with the connivance of the medical profession. Now it is the unwanted child (that is "inconvenient"). So 170,000 a year are put to death. It is done legally, it is done behind closed doors and it is done by the medical profession.

What next? Legalised euthanasia for the expensive and troublesome elderly? What will future generations say about us? HUGH J THOMSON Consultant surgeon Birmingham

Sir: The last British national abortion survey conducted by MORI in 1995 asked whether voters agreed or disagreed with the principle of "abortion on request", which goes beyond what is permitted under the present Abortion Act. Sixty-six per cent strongly agreed with this or tended to agree with this. Twenty-four per cent disagreed or strongly disagreed with this.

The ProLife Alliance, which is apparently to put up candidates at the next election, will draw its votes from the 15 per cent that declared they "strongly" disagreed with abortion on request of the pregnant woman. Most even of these religious extremists will prefer not to vote on a purely fundamentalist platform, however, since they have views on taxation, Europe and other subjects. Since I believe that compelling



women to have unwanted babies is both socially undesirable and morally evil, I very much hope this religious faction will put up candidates and that this is not just one of their usual publicity stunts. This will demonstrate once and for all that their actual capacity to attract votes even in favourable circumstances will amount to maybe 3 per cent of all those voting, thus placing them firmly in the lunatic fringe of electoral contenders. MADELINE SIMMS London NW11

Sir: It would seem logical that those who oppose abortion should wish to obviate abortions by actively promoting contraception. Why don't they? R CLATWORTHY Beverley, East Yorkshire

Rise in birth rate not the answer

Sir: D R Smith raises the question of future population increase (letter, 2 December) and suggests that an increase in the birth rate "could be considered desirable to counter the ageing population". In fact it seems unlikely that there is any such problem of an ageing population. Given the increasing tendency towards forced early retirement, and endemic high unemployment, it is clear that whatever the restraints on our ability to provide for an increasing number of elderly may be, a shortage in the working-age groups is not one.

Even if it were, to advocate increasing the birth rate would require the same false logic as that

behind such scams as pyramid selling and chain letters. Not only would it increase the number of dependent members of the population in the short term, but in the long term would mean a larger retired population, as the new generation in turn grows old. The increase in the number of households is being caused at least as much by fragmentation of families as the increasing population. On the other hand, as Mr Smith points out, the population is still increasing, but few could share his view that the predicted increase of 2.1 million deserves the epithet "only".

Like it or not, we are now facing harsh dilemmas because our population has grown so high relative to our natural resources. Is it not time that population became an important subject of national debate, and one which all political parties should address? CHRISTOPHER PADLEY Green Party Population Policy Working Group Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

Too many eggs in the tunnel

Sir: Richard Hope writes (letter, 2 December) that it is "laughable" to argue that airlines could not switch capacity to meet demand should the Channel Tunnel be put out of action.

I have before me forecasts, published by Eurotunnel, of

passenger rail traffic through the tunnel in the year 2040, with and without the high-speed link. Without the link, through rail services alone are expected to carry 22.5 million passengers a year, and with it 45 million.

Last year, international traffic through Heathrow was 44 million passengers. The question posed by the proposed high-speed link is: how many eggs should be placed in one basket? JOHN ADAMS Geography Department University College London London WC1

All correct on origins of kilt

Sir: Both your correspondents James Fraser Wd (letter, 28 November) and Fulton Gillespie (2 December) are correct about the origins of the Scottish kilt.

The ancient "quilt" was indeed a rather short, indistinct and cumbersome outfit. For this reason the Lancastrian Quaker, Thomas Rawlinson, who employed many Scots producing charcoal for his iron forges, had the military tailor at the Inverness barracks "abridge the dress and make it handy and convenient for his workmen". What the tailor came up with was the "felic beg" or "plaid beg", the modern day knee-length skirt and separate plaid combination (as described by Hugh Trevor-Roper in *The Invention of Tradition*).

Yet despite this heritage I have to confess to a little pride in my own roots, for certainly in Glasgow the modern-day young Scot seems to favour the clans Armani, Versace and Dolce e Gabbana. JOSEPH FATTORINI Glasgow

Sir: Rawlinson's contribution was achieved by cutting in two the long and heavy woollens which till then were used in the manner described by the "Gentleman in the North of Scotland".

The long woollens would be prepared for use on the ground; the folds then were not stitched, and the owner would, apparently, roll in it. Not a very practical way to dress, but one should remember that this same woollens, when needed, would be unfolded and used as a blanket. R MARANIELLO London NW11

Whom can we taxpayers sue?

Sir: I have every sympathy with any child who is the victim of incompetent teaching and wonder why no one has thought of suing negligent teachers before now (report, 2 December). But from the purely selfish point of view of a taxpayer, I am just a bit concerned that I appear to be funding every stage of this process.

First, I pay for the child's education, whatever the

standard. That includes the school buildings, the teachers, the cleaners and the whole educational bureaucracy. Then I pay the solicitors and barristers to sue the school, and the judges and court officers who in the case, in the meantime, I pay a sixth-form college to repair the damage done by the original school, and finally, if the court case is successful, I pay any damages awarded against the education authority.

Could someone please tell me whom I can sue for creating this ridiculous state of affairs? M H LIGHTFOOT Northampton, North Yorkshire

Sir: Now that pupils are to sue their former school for their being educationally disadvantaged (report, 2 December), I presume it will be in order for teachers and pupils to sue disruptive members of the school who make study, progress and life impossible for everybody else. BERNARD O'CONNOR Dundee

Poet justice

Sir: Your correspondent Row Watkins (letters, 30 November), in the course of chiding teachers for their ignorance of grammar, mangles and misapplies his quotation from Philip Larkin's *Church Going*. When Larkin wrote that "someone will forever be surprising/A hunger in himself to be more serious", he was thinking of more important matters than the ability to recognise modal verbs. DAVID REED Bristol

How to save the Reading Room

Sir: I was very sad to read ("The final chapter for library classic", 30 November) that Camden planning committee has given permission for the conversion of the British Museum Reading Room from its proper use into a computer café.

My respect and admiration for this great national institution go back 50 years to when I started work from school as a ticket issuer for the Reading Room, and where, as your correspondent recalls, I met my partner, Angus Wilson, who contributed so much to the work and life of visiting scholars from all over the world.

The Reading Room is indeed one of the wonders of the world: a superbly purpose-built room for study, as I can testify, having used it as a reader.

What should happen, and could happen if this Government had an ounce of respect for our heritage, is that the Reading Room should be dismantled and re-created alongside the new British Library at St Pancras, where its rightful function could continue, and where the second largest dome in London could be seen: it is not seen now unless you climb to the roof of the Museum Tavern.

There is land available, unless the Government has sold it to the private sector - something it is compulsively impelled to do. The space left at the British Museum site would be invaluable to the departments remaining. TONY GARRETT Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Set fixed terms between elections

Sir: What a relief an election sooner than May, when this Parliament's time runs out, would be to all concerned, you say in your leader of 2 December. And so, doubtless, it would be.

Nevertheless, the prerogative of prime ministers to call an early election is open to question.

Not only are they quite powerful enough without it, but the right to manipulate the election date confers on the governing party an unfair electoral advantage and the ensuing uncertainty can be highly damaging economically.

If other countries get by quite happily with fixed-term biennially four-year parliaments elected on predetermined dates, why can't we? WALTER GREY London N2

Bed to serve

Sir: Phil Hammond MD (3 December) quotes the opening lines of the children's classic "Miss Polly had a Dolly" as an example of inappropriate behaviour on the part of patients.

Tellingly, he omits the other verses. The second - "The Doctor came with his bag and hat, and he knelt on the floor with a rat-a-tat-tat" - contains a blackly satirical suggestion that the doctor might come promptly.

The third - "He looked at the dolly and he shook his head, and he said 'Miss Polly put her straight to bed'" - has the swiftly drawn portrait of a condescending bedside manner.

And the fourth - "He wrote on the paper for a pill pill pill, and he said 'I'll be back with my bill bill'" - leaves us in no doubt as to where the doctor's priorities lie. JULIAN CONNERTY London N16

essay

A Lordly plot to save their place

Viscount Cranborne, Leader of the House of Lords whose lineage goes back to the time of Elizabeth I, is not going to let New Labour take away his hereditary rights without a fight

By Paul Vallely and John Rentoul

Behind the scenes the provisional wing of the House of Lords has begun to make its preparations. Paramilitary hereditary peers have begun piecing together a sequence of parliamentary plots to block Tony Blair's plan to begin a reform of the unelected chamber of the British parliament if Labour wins the forthcoming general election. Anonymous Tory peers have been reported this week threatening to "amend out of existence" Labour's two-clause Bill to take away the voting rights of hereditary peers. Speculation centres on the person of Baron Cecil of Essendon. To students of history it will come as no surprise. The noble lord is a Cecil and therefore a member of the most distinguished dynasty in 400 years of British politics. His ancestor William Cecil, a Tudor lawyer, became the closest adviser to Queen Elizabeth I and was created Lord Burghley in gratitude. His son, Robert, succeeded to the post and continued as first minister to James I. Later Cecils included the last of the great Victorian prime ministers, Lord Salisbury. Prime Minister A J Balfour was a relative. And a subsequent Lord Salisbury became the kingmaker in the "magic circle" which used to choose the Tory leader.

Small wonder there was much

mockery about John Major's vaunted classless society when four years ago the present Robert Cecil - a former Tory MP who is heir to the Marquess of Salisbury and therefore known by the courtesy title of Viscount Cranborne - was catapulted into the Lords by an arcane "writ of acceleration" to join John Major's government. This event was a joyful anachronism for Tory snobs and pundits of the high Tory historical-mysticism bent. There was much talk of scions of a noble dynasty and a man who carried in his genes the accumulated political skills of the Cecils.

It is a poetic flummery which Cranborne is happy to exploit even in the midst of the latest political intrigue. Today he gives a lecture to the floridly-named right-wing think tank, Politica. Being a Cecil he is not afraid of the broad historical sweep. "Western Europe, whose culture has dominated the planet for over three centuries, is in danger of going the way of the Caliph, the Moghul and the Ming, and for very similar reasons," he declares in the pamphlet on which the lecture is based.

He is worried about nation states being swallowed up in large flabby supranational groupings that will sap the vital desire to compete on which Western civilisation is based. As with economics, so with constitutions. He believes that the

British constitution has evolved by adapting to continuous competing pressures. He therefore rejects Labour's plans for the Lords, on the grounds that written constitutions are bound to be imperfect because they are based on so-called fundamental principles.

"Man is not a perfectible beast," he muses. "Therefore, how can a declaration of first principles itself be the embodiment of perfection - unless it has been drafted by God and not man? If the first principles are faulty, then the mechanical arrangements will be even faultier." Politics, he declares, "is not just about rationality, because man is not a wholly rational animal." This is, of course, the essential standpoint of any defender of the hereditary principle.

But there is not in that much of a hint of the parliamentary guerrilla warfare to come. Cranborne is too urbane for that. Publicly he stands by the promise made by Lord Strathclyde, the Conservative chief whip in the House of Lords, who said last month that his party would not block the ending of speaking and voting rights for hereditary peers.

In a letter to Lord Carter, a senior Labour frontbencher, Strathclyde insisted that the Tories would abide by the "Salisbury Convention" - invented by a previous Robert Cecil, Cranborne's grandfather, when

he was Tory leader of the Lords during the first Labour government in 1945. This insists the unelected chamber would not stand in the way of a manifesto pledge of a party which had won a general election. "It would be constitutionally wrong for this House to oppose proposals which have been definitively put before the electorate," grandpapa said. Privately the plotters are planning a detailed campaign of constitutional ambushes to paralyse the first year of a Blair administration. "The Leader of the House cannot possibly sanction people planning that kind of thing," said a Tory party source but others in the House are convinced that Lord Cranborne will turn a benignly-unfocused eye to a group of die-hard Tory "provos" in the guerrilla warfare ahead.

Expect trouble of a protracted, procedural kind from the likes of Baron Denham, the former Tory chief whip in the Lords, a passionate defender of the hereditary system. Then there is the Earl of Onslow, who has already expounded the clever country-house Tory argument that the hereditaries should go, but not to be replaced by a fully-appointed super-quango. And trouble may come too from Lord Mowbray and Stourton, another ex-whip, who possesses England's oldest (13th century) harony.

The Cecils, with their curious mixture of high principle and low tactics, are well-versed in

this kind of thing. Their tradition is one of high Torydom, far more concerned with the eternal verities of Church and Crown than transient political fashions. When the two clash the Cecils have a habit of resigning. Cranborne's great-grandfather resigned from Disraeli's Cabinet over the second reform bill. His grandfather, Bobbette Salisbury, resigned twice - under Chamberlain over appeasement and under Macmillan over "coloured" immigration.

But they are cunning tacticians too. Lord Burghley, for 30 years Elizabeth I's most trusted adviser, though a generally moderate man was responsible for the execution of Mary Queen of Scots and was one of England's first propagandists, financing scholars to rewrite pre-Reformation English history from a Protestant perspective. His son, who was made the first Viscount Cranborne in 1604, successfully masterminded the transition from the Tudor to the Stuart monarchies following a policy which was anti-Catholic, anti-Spanish and anti-Puritan simultaneously.

The present Cranborne is a highly sophisticated political animal too. After a career as a banker in San Francisco and London he was elected to the Commons the same year as John Major. But on being promoted from the back benches to the first rung of Government he resigned within days in protest at the Anglo-Irish agreement.

(Cranborne is a strong Unionist). Margaret Thatcher never forgave him. Yet, some years later, despite his mildly heretical views about government policy, he was sent prematurely to the Lords by John Major to become a junior defence minister. He later became Leader in the Lords, where he successfully sorted out the mess left behind by the departing Lord Wakeham, who had presided over a series of humiliating government defeats and reversals. From there he masterminded Major's campaign to be re-elected as party leader in 1995.

His writ of acceleration was not uncontroversial. "It brings both houses into disrepute," said Labour's then spokesman on constitutional matters, Graham Allen MP. Cranborne shrugged such criticism off - as he did the tabloid outrage when he received the largest rise in a Cabinet pay-round at a time when nurses pay was being held down and, they pointed out, he stood to inherit £105m. Impervious to popular indignation is, of course, an aristocratic trait. Cranborne is the man who in his younger days, after a good lunch at the Turf Club, put up for membership the Rhodesian Foreign Minister P K Van Der Byl, a racist Boer who had labelled all blacks "savages". And when as an MP he won the lottery to introduce a Private Member's Bill he proposed the reintroduction of the old university

seats which had been abolished in 1945.

So, few on the Labour side fail to read between the lines when Cranborne's advisers say that progress in a Labour Bill to remove the rights of hereditary peers "would be slow - everything must go through its full stages".

One Tory peer laughs out loud when it is suggested that Labour would like to get a Referendum Bill through in time to hold referendums in Scotland and Wales by September next year. "Everything is done by agreement in this House. There would have to be a compromise. And we have minimum intervals set out in Standing Order 44 - and there would have to be a vote to suspend it," he says gleefully.

Then there will be all the amendments to consider. There is "an endless permutation" of possibilities, says one Tory. A gloomy Labour official sets out likely Tory lines of attack. "They could do all the sorts of things that we do, you know, inserting requirements for 'consultation and evaluation'." Labour used this device themselves to defeat the Government over nursery vouchers earlier this year.

It is not as if the Tories have behaved with utter propriety in the past. In the 1970s, the Tories in the Lords ditched two of the Labour government's Bills (on trade union law and nationalising the aircraft and shipbuilding industries). And

despite the Salisbury Convention, the 1974-79 Labour government was defeated 343 times in the Lords. Over the whole period since 1979, the Tory government has only been defeated 231 times.

Labour strategists are now in a huddle as to how all this might be countered or pre-empted. Lord Richard, leader of the Labour peers, wants to give top priority to a Bill to remove the rights of hereditary peers. But other senior Labour figures argue that the Bill to set up referendums on devolution in Scotland and Wales ought to be pushed through first.

There is one Cecil precedent that no one expects Cranborne to respect. "It is the duty of every Englishman, and of every English party," said his great-grandfather, the last of the great Victorian prime ministers, "to accept a political defeat cordially." If Labour does win the election they can expect no such magnanimity from the latest Robert Cecil.

Lord Richard has told friends that if the Tory hereditaries indulge in obvious time-wasting and obstruction of the Bill to abolish their rights, it might be worth calling another general election - on the issue of Lords reform. It is not a threat he is likely to carry out, but it says something about Labour's estimation of the calibre of Lord Cranborne's generality in the coming battle that he is prepared to go so far as to issue it.



The Cecil dynasty (clockwise from above): Lord Burghley, Elizabeth I's adviser; Robert Cecil, Lord Treasurer and the first Earl of Salisbury; Bobbette, the fifth Marquess of Salisbury, who resigned from two cabinets (photographs: Hulton Getty); and the present Viscount Cranborne, who displays all the political sophistication of his ancestors

House of Lords

	Life Peers	Hereditary Peers
Conservative	142	318
Labour	96	15
Liberal Democrats	32	24
Cross bench	118	201
Others	21	68

DANGER



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All human life at Pork Scratchings



Miles Kingston

As I am always looking for ways of making a quick fortune, I have been working recently on an idea for a new TV sitcom. Hasn't everyone? I hear you cry. Yes, but this one should hit the jackpot, as it is set in a place that everyone knows and where every section of society meets, and yet which has never been the setting for drama. Where else but - the motorway service area! Here is an extract from the opening episode of what I

hope will be my long-awaited smash hit TV comedy: Welcome to Pork Scratchings...

The scene is in the offices on the Northbound side of the Pork Scratchings Service Area on the M99. The manager, Mr Stainley, has sent for Judy, the manageress of Lucy's Larder, the health food part of the service area, to introduce her to her new recruit, Toby.

Mr Stainley: Ah, Judy. How's everything in Lucy's Larder?
Judy: Fresh. Organic. Tasty. Fabulous.
Stainley: Is it really?
Judy: No. But that's what we tell people.

Stainley: Good, good! Now, Judy, this is our new recruit, Toby. He's replacing Willy. Can you show him the ropes?
Toby: Sir? Mr Stainley?

Stainley: Yes, Toby?
Toby: Can I ask you a question?

Stainley: Of course, lad! Intelligence is what we look for in employees at the Pork Scratchings Service Area! We never find it, but that's what we look for!

Toby: Well, Mr Stainley, what happened to Willy my predecessor? Why did he leave?

Stainley: He got food poisoning. Toby: Food poisoning? Here?

Stainley: Yes, I'm afraid so. He bought a burger from the southbound side burger bar. I had warned him never to venture over the other side, but he wouldn't listen. Now Judy...

Judy: Yes, sir?

Stainley (in an urgent whisper): Oh, Judy, when can I take you out for a date again?

Judy: Never, after what happened last time. I still can't believe that your idea of a night out was to drive me 200 miles up the M, give me an all-day breakfast at Charnock Richard and drive me all the way back again!

Cue for cackling audience laughter. Cut to the shop on the northbound side, where the still is being manned by bossy camp comic character Herbert. A customer enters the shop.

Customer: Excuse me, I don't know if you can help me...

Herbert: Well, I can in principle, but it depends on the small print of your request. Customer: Pardon?

Herbert: I mean, what do you want?

Customer: Oh, Well, I'm trying to use the phone out there to phone home and tell my wife I'm late, but it's so close to the video games arcade that I can't hear a word my wife is saying. Herbert: I think you'll find she's saying:

"What's that horrible noise in the background? I can't hear a word you're saying!" Customer: So there are no other phones in a quieter place?

Herbert: No. Telephones are only ever put in two places at service areas. One is outside where it's so cold or so wet that people don't make long calls and form queues. The other is inside by the video game section, where it's so noisy that people don't make long calls and form queues.

Customer: So what's the answer?

Just then, an RAC recruiting man wanders past holding a placard saying "The End Of The World Is Nigh, So Join The RAC now!" He is talking on a mobile phone.

Herbert: There's your answer!

Customer: What - join the RAC?

Herbert: No, you silly cow -

get a mobile phone. You don't want to go joining the RAC.

Customer: Why not?

Herbert: It would give him a heart attack.

Cut to self-service section of cafeteria, where Tracy, the cheeky serving girl, is at the breakfast counter. A lorry driver approaches with his buy. Tracy: What do you want, sir?

Lorry driver: Full breakfast, please.

Tracy: How do you like your eggs?

Lorry driver: I like them lightly fried two hours ago, left standing around to acquire a soft patina of dust and grease, then reheated to go slightly hard and varnished on the outside.

Tracy: You're in luck. That's the only sort we've got. And so on, for another half-hour of relentless back-chat. Coming soon: the episode where the Gents Toilet breaks down for an hour and causes chaos, where Tracy becomes convinced that the newly arrived customer is Egmont Roney, and where someone actually joins the RAC, and the RAC man does have a heart attack.

We're having the wrong arguments

Monique Lange

Monique Lange, writer and editor: born Paris 11 September 1926; married Juan Goytisolo (one daughter); died Paris 7 October 1996.

Art Porter



Porter: penetrating sound and improvisational style

**Births,
Marriages
& Deaths**

DEATHS

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-291-1111 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2014, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). **OTHER** Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Births: Thomas Carlyle, author, 1795; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, 1875. **Deaths:** Armand-Jean du

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, return the new White Horse Hall, Manchester. The Duke of Edinburgh, Fitzroy, outward bound from the Queen's private residence, the Grosvenor Gardens, London. The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, return the new White Horse Hall, Manchester. The Duke of Edinburgh, Fitzroy, outward bound from the Queen's private residence, the Grosvenor Gardens, London. The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, return the new White Horse Hall, Manchester. The Duke of Edinburgh, Fitzroy, outward bound from the Queen's private residence, the Grosvenor Gardens, London.

Plessis, Cardinal

1642: Thomas Hobbes, political philosopher, 1679;
 Edward Benjamin Britten, Baron
 Brinen, composer, 1976. On this day:
 Nicholas Breakspear was elected
 Pope Adrian IV, thus becoming the
 only Englishman to be pope, 1154;
 Income tax was first introduced, by
 William Pitt, 1798. Today is the
 Feast Day of St Anno, St Bernard of
 Parma, St John of Damascus, St
 Maruthas, St Osmund and St Sola.

1

Lectures
Victoria and Albert Museum: Margaret Timmers and Eric Turner, "Painted Interiors to the V&A", 2.30pm.
Bate Gallery: Colin Cruise, "Imagination and Faith in Victorian Painting", 1pm.
Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Ian Stewart, "Chaos and the Quantum", 1pm.

Legend

Luncheons
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Mr Jeremy Hanley MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, hosted a lunch yesterday at Admiralty House, London SW1, for Mr Masahiko Komura, the Japanese State Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Dinners

United Oxford and Cambridge University Club
Sir Peter Yarranton, former Chairman of the Sports Council, was the principal speaker at a dinner held yesterday at the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club House, London SW1. His subject was "Professionalism in Sport".

Byron Society
Mr Geoffrey Ford hosted the Byron Society.

Society's Christ

terday evening at the Carlton Club, St James's, London SW1. Mr Anthony Lejeune spoke on "The Ghost of St James's".

man, presided.

English-Speaking Union
Mrs Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, gave the English-Speaking Union's 1997 Churchill Lecture yesterday at Guildhall, London EC2. Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman of the Union, presided. Sir John Coles also spoke.

Parents to be assessed with child in care

LAW REPORT

4 December 1996

Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nicholls
of Birkenhead, Lord Hope of
Craighead) 28 November 1996

A court making an interim care order in favour of the local authority had power under s38(6) of the Children Act 1989 to direct that both the child concerned and its parents be placed at a residential assessment centre pending the final order.

The House of Lords allowed the parents' appeal against the decision of the Court of Appeal (Case Summaries, 11 November 1996) and restored the decision of Mrs Justice Hogg directing that the parents and child be placed together in a residential assessment unit. Section 38 provides:

(6) Where the court makes an interim care order, or interim supervision order, it may give such directions (if any) as it considers appropriate with regard to the medical or psychiatric examination or other assessment of the child . . .

(7) A direction under subsection (6) may be to the effect that there is to be — (a) no such examination or assessment...

The child, born on 11 June 1995, was made the subject

of an interim care order after suffering serious non-accidental injuries for which his parents were unable to provide a satisfactory explanation. The parents were both young and inexperienced, the mother being 17 at the time of his birth, the father 16, and lacked family backing. The court appointed a guardian *ad litem* for the child, who was placed with

Social workers employed by the local authority concluded that an in-depth assessment at a residential unit was essential to test the parents' long-term ability to cope. That recommendation was supported by a clinical psychologist who had assessed the parents, and by the guardian *ad litem*.

The local authority did not agree, and opposed the application on the ground that the court had no jurisdiction to make the order under section 38(6). The judge rejected that argument and, in the exercise of her discretion, decided to make the order sought; but the Court of Appeal reversed her decision.

Anthony Rumbelow QC and Gillian

Living (Sharpe Prichard, for Booth & Middleton, Oldham) for the mother; A. Rumbelow QC and Anthony Flayden (Sharpe Prichard, for Norcross Lees & Riches, Oldham) for the father; David Harris QC and Maureen Roddy (G.F. Smith, Oldham) for the local authority; Lesley Newton and Ceri Wainock (Temperley Taylor, Oldham) for the child's guardian ad litem.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said the judge's attention had not been drawn to the then unreported decision of the Court of Appeal in *Re M (minors) (Interim care order: directions)* [1996] 3 FCR 137, holding that there was no jurisdiction under section 38(6) to order such residential assessment.

The appeal court in the present case held that it was bound by its earlier decision in *Re M*, but was plainly unhappy at the result.

There were two possible constructions of section 38(6) and (7), one narrow, the other purposive and broader. The Court of Appeal in *Re M* adopted the narrow view. It held that the words "other assessment of the child" had to be construed *eiusdem generis*.

referred to examination or assessment "of the child"; not of any other person.

His Lordship could not accept this narrow construction. The Act should be construed purposively so as to give effect to the underlying intentions of Parliament. The purpose of subsection (6) was to enable the court to obtain the information necessary for its own decision.

It was true that subsections (6) and (7) only referred to assessment "of the child" but it was impossible to assess a young child divorced from its environment. The interaction between the child and its parents or other carers was an essential element in making any assessment of the child.

broadly construed. They conferred jurisdiction on the court to order or prohibit any assessment which involved the participation of the child and was directed to providing the court with material which it required to reach a proper decision at the final hearing.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

[illegible]

United Airlines steps up attack on alliance

1987 Ronald Jenkins fined £10,000 for conspiracy to defraud. Steel Brothers and British & Geoffrey Collier, 12 months' imprisonment, £25,000 fine and £10,000 costs.

10. £2,000 costs, trading in Commonwealth.
Sentence suspended for two
000 costs.

the directors of the 12 regional electricity companies on 24 June 1994, giving proposals for price controls. He made them public on August 11.

Ian Lang: The Trade Secretary must now decide whether to pursue the Sinden case

The professor was proposing a better deal for the companies. This was a considerable improvement upon changes which had caused the Stock Exchange shock, with the effect that millions of pounds was

United Airlines, the world's

ing effort, he said this would mean American losing 30 slots at the airport, plus a further six at Chicago and 12 at John F. Kennedy airport in New York. These would then be allo-

Racal moves to calm fears with news of £2bn link-up

The Treasury also took advantage of a buoyant market to dispose of small residual stakes in National Grid, Northern Ireland Electricity, Scottish

Source: Data

leaving the public offer 2.4 times subscribed and resulting in the allocation for small shareholders being raised from 30 to 43 per cent of the offer.

Racal Electronics yesterday sought to stem shareholder dis-

price. Describing Racial as a "super" company and a "tremendous success," he totally rejected accusations that the

called "Yeoman" to bid for Bowman, billed as the largest UK military communications programme ever, with ITT as the remaining rival bidder left in the race.

The news about Bowman helped Rácal shares to recover a little of the ground they lost on Monday, rising 11p to 236p.

mobile phone market, Vodafone is now worth £7.9bn, while Chubb, with a market value of some £930m, is also worth more than what remains of Racal.

sisted the company would fight any proposals to give up slots. "We see absolutely no reason why we should hand over to United or indeed any other airline assets which we've invest-

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Profit warning puts Dorling shares into dive

The graph displays the Dow Jones Industrial Average from 1997 to 1999. The left y-axis ranges from 3880 to 4080 in increments of 20. The x-axis shows months from W to T. A second, smaller graph on the right shows a similar trend with a y-axis from 6110 to 6590 in increments of 20. Both graphs show a general upward trend with a significant dip in early 1998 followed by a recovery.

Year	Price (Dollars)
1990	22,400
1991	21,200
1992	21,600
1993	20,800
1994	20,400
1995	21,200

Year	Short sterling	UK medium-term
1990	8.01	7.9
1991	7.9	7.8
1992	7.7	7.7
1993	7.6	7.6
1994	7.5	7.5
1995	7.26	7.2

Financial Editor

The Bank of England has de-

RATES	
US long bond	8.5
US 10-year	8.5
US 5-year	8.5
US 3-month	8.5
US 1-month	8.5
US 30-day	8.5
US 15-day	8.5
US 7-day	8.5
US 3-day	8.5
US 1-day	8.5
US overnight	8.5
US 1-week	8.5
US 2-week	8.5
US 4-week	8.5
US 8-week	8.5
US 12-week	8.5
US 16-week	8.5
US 20-week	8.5
US 24-week	8.5
US 28-week	8.5
US 32-week	8.5
US 36-week	8.5
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US 528-week	8.5
US 532-week	8.5
US 536-week	8.5

£/S	£/DM
3.70	2.85
1.60	2.81
1.68	2.80
1.87	2.57
1.66	2.55

Dorling Kindersley, the books to CD-Rom publishing group, saw

The warning sent the group's highly-rated shares, which peaked at 645p in May, plunging to 420p at one stage yesterday, although they later

Rod Hare, managing director of Random House and HarperCollins had also been complaining recent-

... ..

CURRENCIES

\$/S

\$/DM

\$/Y

(Note: Swiss Francs and Yen at 1000 Swiss Francs)

Pound

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£ (London)	1.6520	-3.72c	1.5345
£ (N. York)	1.6735	-0.75	1.5334
£ (L. Am)	2.6878	-1.05c	2.2051
£ (L. Mex)	167.882	-30.80c	154.21
£ Index	93.7	-0.8	82.6

Dollar

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
\$ (London)	0.6053	+1.17	0.6518
\$ (N. York)	0.5976	unch	0.6321
\$ (L. Am)	1.5965	+2.37c	1.4361
\$ (L. Mex)	113.730	-30.0c	104.825
\$ Index	98.2	+0.5	94.9

OTHER INDICATORS

	Yesterday	Day's Change	Year Ago	Index	Latest Tr. Ago	Next Ftg.
30 Day Bond \$	234.49	-0.09	17.38	RPI	153.8/-2.72c	149.7 12 Dec
90 Day Bond \$	367.00	-0.85	396.30	GDP	108.4/+2.30c	105.7 Jan 27

neering group, said its half year profits of £190m would have been around £9m lower if translated at current exchange rates. Around 40 per cent of Dor-

Lorna Tilhian of brokers Panmure Gordon agreed the difficulties were short-term and suggested this was a buying opportunity for the shares.

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26



'So what is going on here? Certainly it was not concern on the part of the Government that caused sterling to falter. If there was anxiety at the Treasury and the Bank of England about the pound, it hasn't showed'

Sterling's stumble signals end of its glory days

Has the pound finally reached its high point? There was certainly reason to think this yesterday as sterling took a tumble in foreign exchange markets. Perhaps significantly, there was no particular reason for it, other than that dealers thought the pound's recent rise could no longer be sustained. So perhaps we are out, after all, looking at the great sea change hailed by some in the pound's standing - sterling as a safe haven, the next Swiss franc, and all that.

So what is going on here? Certainly it was not concern on the part of the Government that caused sterling to falter. If there was anxiety at the Treasury and the Bank of England about the strength of the pound, it hasn't showed. So far, there has been no intervention by the Bank of England in foreign exchange markets, nor has there been much comment from the Chancellor.

When you think about it, however, there is no earthly reason why he should be concerned. In the short to medium term, a strong pound is all to the good, politically at least. For a start, it means cheaper foreign holidays. Then there's that sense of national pride that springs from a strong currency. More important still, the deflationary effect decreases the pressure on Mr Clarke to raise interest rates.

The only people complaining about it were exporters. If they get hurt, then plainly that eventually affects the real economy and the Government. But there is a relatively long lag here and it seems unlikely there

would be any noticeable adverse effect in the six months left to an election. The upshot is that there is no incentive at all for Mr Clarke to do anything about a strong pound.

Moreover, there is good reason to believe that it is in any case only a temporary phenomenon. The pound is not made inherently attractive just because the Germans seem prepared to give up their strong D-mark for a softer and more volatile Euro. Meanwhile there are problems aplenty building up in the domestic economy, most urgently that of runaway consumer demand. This looks destined to bring higher interest rates with or without the strong pound. Anyone who believes the picture is going to look any better under Mr Blair is whistling in the wind; Labour is going to find it much harder to hold the lid on spending while big tax increases to correct the problem are going to be as difficult for Mr Blair as they are for Mr Clarke - they would risk stranding the new administration at birth. This is not a backdrop conducive to a strong currency of Swiss like predictability and resilience.

Another bungle on insider dealing

Whoops. Another one bungled. The Stock Exchange typically refers two or three dozen cases of suspected insider dealing a year to securities regulators. But convictions are still as rare as summer snow. Most

of them never even get to court. This year there has been a grand total of two trials, one of which fizzled out yesterday with a hung jury. Amazingly the other produced a guilty verdict, though we do not yet know the sentence but it hardly makes much difference.

Over the years, criminal prosecutions for insider dealing have produced a lamentable record of which neither legislators nor prosecutors can be proud. The law was beefed up in 1993, but few believe that this will do much good. This is an issue that is giving ethical standards in the City a bad name, and deservedly so. As a result, there has been much hand wringing among regulators over what to do next.

The problem is that a large number of what we can only call professional insider dealers gets away scot free every year - simply because they are so good at their egregious calling. It is the occasional amateur that tends to get caught and fined.

The mystery about it is that the DTI has powers to investigate insider dealing that go far beyond those available to the police in the ordinary course of their investigations. Inspectors can trample over what are normally regarded as core civil liberties with impunity. Karen Morgan Thomas, a former stockbroker at James Capel, who was innocently caught up - through her acquaintance with Lord Archer - in investigations into insider trading in Anglia TV shares is so incensed about her treatment that she is reportedly planning to take the issue to the European courts.

This DTI tiger, which looks on paper as if it can give anybody a mauling, looks more like a kitten when you look at the record of court success, and the paltry level of penalties, with only one jailing in a decade. The conventional answer, favoured by the Stock Exchange, is to use the civil law and the regulatory system, where the burden of proof is lower, to prosecute insider trading. Reluctantly, it has to be said that the criminal prosecution record is making the exchange's case stronger every year.

Mr Rice needs to keep on running

Victor Rice, the chief executive of LucasVarity, is a larger than life character so he should be able to take yesterday's rather perverse 6 per cent decline in the company's share price in his stride. Any man who can wear pink jogging pants into the office isn't the sort to lose much sleep over one or two stock market downgrades anyway.

The cause of the slippage in the share price was some bearish comments about the trading outlook that the usually bullish Mr Rice made at the end of a teleconference with analysts. Apparently the French have stopped buying so many diesel engine cars now that their Government has stopped bribing them to enter the showrooms.

The bigger picture is somewhat rosier,

however. Poor old Sir Brian Pearce, the group's non-exec chairman, could only spend £65m worth of cost savings in the merged business. Moreover, he gave his word as a decent chap and an ex-banker that the job losses would be few and far between such was the complementary match between the two businesses.

But the sharp-suited Mr Rice is an altogether smarter cookie. He has managed, surprise, surprise, to double the figure for cost savings to £120m after identifying 1,500 folk on the Lucas payroll who were surplus to requirements after all. In total the headcount will fall by some 8,000 once Mr Rice has finished swinging the axe elsewhere in the sleepy old world of car components and disposed of some 13 businesses (again all ex-Lucas subsidiaries) that do not fit with the grand strategy.

Perhaps we should not be too surprised at all this. Mr Rice was brought in from Varity to do precisely this job and he has set about his task with gusto. Any pretence that this was other than an American takeover of Lucas has been firmly squashed.

The kitchen sink exercise will mean £250m of exceptional charges this year. But the flip side is that all the cost savings identified by Mr Rice will be flowing through to shareholders inside two years.

That, generally, is when mergers of this sort start to run into the ground and investors start to worry. Mr Rice will need to keep his jogging pants on.

LucasVarity to cut 1,500 jobs in Britain

Michael Harrison

Up to 1,500 jobs are to be shed in Britain as part of a sweeping cost reduction programme unveiled yesterday by the newly merged automotive and aerospace group LucasVarity.

The job cuts are part of a rationalisation plan that will see a total of 3,000 redundancies worldwide and the disposal of a further 13 businesses employing some 5,000 people.

LucasVarity is taking a one-off charge of £250m to cover the restructuring programme but said that by January 1999 it expected to be making annual savings in operating costs of at least £120m.

The City initially greeted the news positively, marking LucasVarity shares up sharply. But they fell later in the day as dealers construed comments about weakening European demand by the group's chief executive, Victor Rice, as a veiled profits warning.

Mr Rice described the City's reaction as "dumb and stupid" and denied he had issued a prof-

its warning. All he had said to analysts during a telephone conference call was that the group's heavy-duty braking, Perkins engines and diesel fuel injection businesses had seen a slowdown in European markets.

The cost savings identified by LucasVarity are double those estimated at the time the merger was announced in September, and will come from increased productivity, the elimination of duplicated facilities and reduced overheads.

Sir Brian Pearce, Lucas's chairman, had also indicated that job losses would be few. In the event, the rationalisation programme will see the combined workforce fall from 55,000 to 47,000.

All 13 businesses being sold off are former Lucas subsidiaries. Mr Rice said the disposal programme would raise £100m at a conservative estimate and would be earnings enhancing.

The businesses being sold have sales of £270m, representing 6 per cent of group turnover. Eight businesses have

so far been identified for sale. They include two UK subsidiaries - Lucas Heavy Duty Products, which makes starters and alternators, and Lucas Industrial Components, which manufactures precision machine components - and two businesses with UK operations - Lucas Nitrotec, which specialises in metal surface treatment, and Lucas Assembly & Test Systems, which is based in Britain and the US.

The other businesses being disposed of are its Brazilian headlamp division, its Argentinian starter motor and ignition systems business, its South African starter motor and alternator subsidiary and a Greek parts importer and distributor.

Mr Rice said there was no question of selling the Lucas aerospace business, saying the combined group intended to establish leading positions in four key markets - automotive, diesel engines, aftermarket and aerospace.

He indicated, however, that Lucas's troubled US aerospace subsidiary GDS, which was the

subject of a multi-million dollar settlement with the Pentagon over falsified records, might be got rid of. Speculation that it might elude Lucas's Koblenz brakes plant in Germany and Varity's Dayton Walther brakes and wheels business in the US was wrong, he said.

At the time of the merger, LucasVarity said it expected to achieve £65m in cost savings and a further £65m in tax savings over a two-year period. Of the £120m it now expects to save through greater operational efficiency, £60m to £70m will come through in the first year.

The £250m exceptional charge breaks down into £120m to cover redundancies and a one-off non-cash item of £130m, primarily to cover asset write-downs.

There would be no plant closures in the UK, although it was bearing the brunt of the job cuts, said Mr Rice. He defended the heavier-than-expected job losses, saying the forecasts were made when Lucas and Varity were still virtually separate companies, before its "transition teams" had got to work.



Victor Rice: Denied he had made a veiled profits warning

Photograph: FT

US rivals team up on super jumbo

David Osborne
New York

Boeing reached an agreement with McDonnell Douglas yesterday to collaborate on the development of future Boeing wide-body commercial airliners, marking a highly unusual coming together of deadly rivals.

Under the pact, which will be finalised in January, McDonnell Douglas is expected to loan several hundred of its employees to Boeing to assist with the design and testing of the proposed new models. The joint teams will work initially on the development of a new super-sized Boeing 747 jumbo jet.

The deal will help Boeing get through a capacity and manpower crunch brought about by a recent influx of new aircraft orders. McDonnell Douglas, by contrast, has suffered setbacks in its commercial jet division and will welcome a new outlet for its workforce and expertise.

"We have a record number of orders for commercial jets and several ongoing development programmes," Ron Woodward, president of Boeing's Commercial Airplane Group, said. "McDonnell Douglas has excellent design and production capability, both in people and facilities, that are not being fully utilised. We look forward to applying those resources to future Boeing wide-body airplane programmes."

The agreement is likely to spur speculation about the possibility in the longer run of an eventual buy-out by Boeing of McDonnell Douglas's commercial division. McDonnell Douglas faces an uphill struggle persuading its traditional customers that it can survive as a maker of civilian aircraft. It recently shelved plans for the development of a successor to its wide-body MD-11 airliner that had been dubbed the MD-XX.

News of the collaboration deal nudged up the stock of both companies in early New York trading, with Boeing shares rising 50c to \$98 and McDonnell shares gaining 75c to \$53.375.

IN BRIEF

• **Troubled French state bank** Credit Lyonnais has become the subject of a criminal investigation by the Paris Public Prosecutor, who is looking into suspected fraud and the issuing of misleading information in the early 1990s. The move was prompted by the finance minister, Jean Arthuis, who asked that legal proceedings be taken against former top managers at the bank. Credit Lyonnais made losses of \$4bn in 1992-94.

• **Germany's trade surplus** grew to DM8.3bn (£3.2bn) in September from DM8.1bn in August, according to provisional figures from the Federal Statistics Office. The provisional current account deficit narrowed to DM1.6bn in September from an unrevised DM4.6bn in August. Industrial output in Germany fell a seasonally adjusted 1.8 per cent in October from September but, adjusted for the number of working days, was up 0.7 per cent from a year earlier, the Economics Ministry said.

• **Cable & Wireless** will bid with still unnamed partners to build a second full telecommunications network in Singapore. C&W said yesterday that talks were still going on with potential partners. In 1998 Singapore will award up to two additional full service licences, breaking Singapore Telecommunications' monopoly.

• **BT and MCI**, the US long-distance phone company, formally filed their merger application with the US regulator, the Federal Communications Commission. It aims to demonstrate that the UK phone market is one of the world's most competitive, answering the main FCC pre-condition to giving the deal the go-ahead. The US authorities will only approve the merger if they are convinced other US firms will have the same access to the UK market as BT will gain in America.

• **Kemwood**, the electrical appliances group under siege from rebel shareholders, yesterday played down bid speculation as it revealed a sharp drop in profits. The company said it had noted reports of an interest from rival household goods group Pifco, but no formal offer had been made. Pre-tax profits in the first half fell to £3.3m from £7.4 m.

• **The BSE scare** on beef knocked £2.5m off profits at Hazlewood Foods in the six months to September. Hardest hit was the group's delicatessen and meat division, which slumped in a £2m loss. The group is withdrawing from the commodity end of the cooked meat business and says further cost reductions will take place in the second half. Group profits fell from £16m to £11m, including a £4.7m loss on the disposal of Charles Turner, the recycled paper business.

• **UK official reserves** fell an underlying \$98m in November following a \$7m rise in October, the Treasury said. The overall level of official reserves fell by \$110m in November, bringing the end-November reserves to \$46.569bn.

• **Candover Investments** has backed the management buy-out of Camden Motors from Barclays Bank. The majority of the equity finance was provided by Candover Investments and funds under its management, with the management team, led by managing director Paul Dunkley, providing the remaining equity. Camden is the 15th largest motor retailer in the UK and operates a multi-franchise network.

• **Financial Times Information**, a subsidiary of Pearson, is to co-develop a global news service for corporate, research, government and academic customers with Dow Jones Information Publishing and Knight-Ridder Information. The London-based online news service will contain information from the major newspapers, news magazines and trade publications worldwide.

Ernst partner earns £430,000

Roger Trapp

Nick Land, UK senior partner of Ernst & Young, was paid a total of nearly £430,000 in the year to June 1996, according to the accountancy and management consultancy firm's first published report and accounts.

The figures issued yesterday also show the practice's profits rose 21 per cent to £75.2m, while gross fee income rose 14 per cent to £456m. At the same time, the international firm announced worldwide revenues up 13 per cent to \$7.8bn (£4.8bn) for the year to 30 September.

Mr Land's package was made up of remuneration of £326,701, a pension contribution of £74,712 and interest on his partnership capital of £28,587. The average partner's total pay was £200,000, comprising £154,000 in remuneration, pension contributions of £35,000 and interest on capital of £11,000.

This figure was broadly similar to the amount reported for KPMG partners when that firm published its accounts earlier this year as part of its move to incorporate its audit arm. But Mr Land's pay package is dwarfed by KPMG senior partner Colin Sherman's £740,000.

Though all sectors of the business had done well, corporate finance, which grew by a fifth, management consultancy and taxation had been especially strong.

Pointing out that partnership profits had actually dipped last year, to £171,000 per partner from the previous year's £177,000, Mr Land attributed the record growth to "improved market conditions and the results of a sustained process of change over the last four years".

Ernst & Young is not required to publish detailed financial information, but Mr Land said disclosure fitted in with the firm's spirit of openness.

Football clubs 'could bypass Sky'

Patrick Toohar

Two leading television executives yesterday predicted the eclipse of broadcasters such as BSkyB and sports bodies such as the Premier League by top football clubs, which owned valuable rights to screen live games, could cut exclusive pay-per-view television deals.

Greg Dyke, chief executive of Pearson Television, claimed next year's planned introduction of digital television and the soaring value of sports rights would bring "untold riches" to clubs such as Manchester United at the expense of programme distributors.

Speaking at a seminar in London on the business of sport organised by the Institute of Economic Affairs, Mr Dyke said: "It is the clubs who own

the rights who will gain, not the broadcasters. This is not television as we know it. The new television will be an extension of the gate, the club selling to the fans."

Mr Dyke attacked the hith-



Greg Dyke: Attacked the dominant role of BSkyB

erto dominant role played by BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, which recently agreed a £670m deal with the Premier League to retain exclusive rights to televise top football matches into the next century.

"BSkyB has made an enormous amount of money by being a monopoly supplier of somebody else's market. But it is an interim service using interim technology."

Mr Dyke's comments were backed up by Robin Welch, a leading figure at Dutch pay-TV group NetHind, who last week became a non-executive director of Caspian, the media group which owns Premier League club Leeds United.

"Sports distributors will have less of an influence in the digital era," Mr Welch said.

The outspoken comments of two senior industry figures

come as leading football clubs continue to prepare for the early introduction of pay-per-view, which is not scheduled under the BSkyB/Premier League contract until 1999.

This week it emerged that Rick Parry was quitting as Premier League chief executive to take up a similar post at Liverpool in a move widely seen as increasing the Anfield's club bargaining power in future pay-per-view negotiations.

BSkyB is also keen to offer pay-per-view. Premier League football to coincide with the launch of up to 200 digital channels next year, about 60 of which will be pay-per-view sport or films. But clubs could be free to sign their own pay-per-view deals if the Restrictive Practices Court decides BSkyB's exclusive television contract with the Premier League is illegal.

Wickes to stop expansion abroad

Nigel Cope

Wickes, the troubled DIY group, is expected to abandon its overseas operations as part of a business plan that will be unveiled in the group's rescue rights issue prospectus next week.

The decision to concentrate solely on the UK will mark the end of former chairman Henry Sweetbaum's international ambitions, which saw the company open stores in South Africa, Belgium, France and Holland as well as a conservatory business in the US.

Last year's annual report contained a statement by Mr Sweetbaum which boasted of his belief that the "opportunity exists to develop the Wickes concept around the world".

It is expected that these operations will be sold to concentrate on the 120 UK stores. Wickes has 21 stores in Holland, 19 in Belgium, three in South Africa and two in France. Next week's document will

also include the restated 1995 accounts, the results for the first six months of 1996 and a trading forecast for the rest of this year.

It is likely the group will confirm it has completed negotiations with suppliers on new terms. These are likely to cause additional provisions, which is one reason why the rights issue figure has been increased from £30m to £50m. A new non-executive director will also be announced.

The rights issue document will alert possible bidders to pore over the figures for Wickes, which include Ready Mixed Concrete and Kingfisher, which will report booming third-quarter sales figures at its B&Q DIY subsidiary today.

Analysts think the buoyant DIY market and the possibility of takeover action will prove persuasive to investors. "I think people will grumble, but cough up the cash," says Nick Bubb at Mees Pierson.

market report / shares

Data Bank

FTSE 100

4061.5 +23.0

FTSE 250

4427.6 +12.8

FTSE 350

2015.4 +10.2

SEAQ VOLUME

847.3m shares

35,507 bargains

Gilt Index

95.48 -0.15

Share spotlight

share price, pence

Assorted British Foods

400

350

300

250

200

150

100

50

0

DJFMAMJJASOND

Ladbroke places its bets on the US casino market

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year



Hopes of a US betting bonanza are beginning to inspire the Ladbroke bookmaking and hotel group, which was once viewed as a dead cert takeover victim. The shares climbed 4.5p to 208p as the stock market punted on the group's multi-million pound push into the fiercely competitive American casino business.

Ladbroke, it would appear, wants to set up casinos throughout the US, many in partnership with its new ally, Hilton Hotels Corporation. First joint venture will almost certainly be in Las Vegas.

For a long while Ladbroke was seen as a likely takeover victim. HHC was just one of many predators banded around. With Ladbroke it shares the world-famous Hilton hotel name; the UK group owns the international franchise and HHC the US operation. The betting and hotels chain was also seen as bid

fodder for the likes of Bass and a variety of international leisure groups.

Ladbroke was able to outrun the speculation and in August agreed a collaboration deal with Hilton which gave it the opportunity to participate in HHC's US gaming operations.

Bass, up 17p at 811p, is due to roll out results today. They could be accompanied by the Government's reaction to its controversial bid to buy control of Carlsberg Teltel, the struggling brewer. The view is that to get the deal through Bass could be forced to make big concessions, selling off chunks of its pub estate. One possible buyer is Michael Cannon, who recently sold The Magic Pub Co to brewer Greene King for £197.5m.

The rest of the stock market adopted a more aggressive approach, with Footsie up 23 points at 4,061.5 and the supporting indices on the up.

The Government's utilities raid was the centre of interest. British Energy held at 147.5p as, through HSBC James Capel, Westminster unloaded 81 million shares at 146p. Other unwanted Government utility rumpus were sold, helping inflate what was a rather mundane day's turnover. Severn Trent used the Westminster sale as an opportunity for a buyback, picking up 2.5 million shares from A&N Amro Hoare Govett which had acquired the stock from the Government. Hoare sold on the shares at 661p against a 668.5p closing price.

Associated British Foods gained 6.5p to 452p. A special

dividend from its Australian offshoot prompted the interest.

LucasVarity was the worst-performing blue chip, suffering a 16.5p fall to 234p as it provided details of its restructuring which carried an implied profit warning.

Racal Electronics managed to survive its profit setback with an 11p gain to 236p and Pilkington, the glass group, continued its recovery, firming to 153p.

Oils were buoyed by the Santa Fe North Sea deal. Norway's largest independent oil group, Saga, is paying \$1.23bn for the Kuivall group's North Seas interests. Such a deal

clearly casts a beneficial light on other North Sea assets. But, the old adage it is better to travel than arrive was again evident with the likes of British Petroleum, Enterprise Oil and Lando giving ground.

Dorling Kindersley provided the shock of the day, citing the strength of the pound for a profits warning. The shares slumped 81p to 437.5p, dragging down such groups as Pearson, off 8.5p to 729p.

House of Fraser, the department store chain, was drawn back into the takeover spotlight, gaining 4p to 166p.

Barcom, a coal services and plant hire group, gained 3p to 52.5p as it pushed profits to £2.71m from £652,000. The group has been reshaped by Doug Rogers, no stranger to turn-around situations.

Rage Software, the computer games group which used to be called BCE, held at 11.25p. A long-standing shareholder,

Rose Noble, has lowered its interest and now has nearly 24 million shares, 9.84 per cent of the capital. Rage has indicated it is in talks with publishers and there are stories it could forge a link with Virgin. The shares were 23p a year ago.

Trocadero, the London leisure complex, held at 51p. Some believe this Burford spin-off could be the subject of a Japanese bid.

Brumfield Aggregates was another drawn into bid speculation. There are stories the company, which has been haunted by a threatened board change, could have attracted the attention of Bardon, itself a long-standing bid target. The shares rose 2p to 25.5p. Takeover hopes lifted Lamont, a textile group, 5p to 191p.

Larion, a personnel group, is launching a £18.5m placing and open offer. It is paying £14.5 for two resourcing companies. The shares held at 34p.

Chieftain, an insulation supplier, firmed 5p to 57.5p. Its highest bid action could soon materialise.

The group, after a difficult run, is now trading well and interim profits suggested it was well on its way to hitting £500,000 for the year, which would represent a £1m-plus swing. The shares were 18p in January.

CNC, a property group, is another which could be destined for bid action. The shares held at 7.25p, although there is talk the company has received and rejected a bid at 9.5p.

The group used to be a confectionery maker called Clarke Nickolls Coombs. It moved into property, changing its name after winning control of Brightstone Properties in a £9.2m deal.

Taking Stock

superb

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Company Acc

Alcoholic Beverages				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Banks, Merchant				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Barclays	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Bank of Scotland	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Bank of Ireland	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Bank of London	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Bank of Montreal	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Bank of New York	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Bank of Paris	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Bank of Spain	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Bank of Sweden	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Bank of Switzerland	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Bank of Tokyo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Bank of West	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Bank of Zurich	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%								
Banks, Retail				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Breweries, Pubs & Rest				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Building/Construction				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Electronics				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Food Manufacturers				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Gas Distribution				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Health Care				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Household Goods				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Insurance				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Index-Linked				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												
Unlisted				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct				Stock				Price Chg Yld Pct			
Asahi Breweries	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Beck's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Carlsberg	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Heineken	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	King's	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Miller	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Orkla	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Sanofi-Synthelabo	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Wm. S. Watson	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	Yates	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%												

Superb management skills push Siebe profits higher

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Siebe, Britain's biggest engineering group, has proved its management skills in spades over the past few years and has also shown it is no slouch at acquisitions. This year's £520m deal to buy electronic control group Unitech is already proving well up with expectations.

A substantial chunk of the 32 per cent rise in profits to £190m for the six months to September was the result of a maiden five-month contribution from Unitech. The power supply converter group chipped in £21.3m to group operating profits, which rose from £166m to £216m in the period. Unitech's underlying 12 per cent rise was impressive against the background of a still-depressed semiconductor industry, which, with telecoms, accounts for around a fifth of sales.

Siebe believes the electronics market is at last on the turn, although it may take 18 months to return to the heady days before last year's collapse in prices. Any further damage to sales caused by the weak yen should be more than made up with synergy benefits and cost savings, still on course to deliver £15m in a full year, with close to 1,200 people expected to be taken out of the business this year.

Meanwhile, Foxboro, an earlier

purchase, continues to sparkle. Its I/A process control systems for managing large plants such as oil refineries and chemical plants has seen its market share more than double this decade and now stands just one percentage point behind market leader Honeywell.

But the real story at Siebe remains management. Having built world-beating positions in industrial and consumer appliance control equipment, sales have grown ahead of the market, which, combined with relentless cost-cutting, has pushed group margins from 13.8 to 14.7 per cent in the six months.

Bettering that will be tough, but Siebe is rolling out an ambitious and pioneering project, dubbed Six Sigma, to slash manufacturing defects from typical levels of 5,000 per million units of output to little more than zero. This US concept, already being used by Motorola and Texas Instruments, could deliver net benefits of around £50m in two to three years' time.

Apart from Europe, most of Siebe's markets are growing, with the controls business alone quoting for business worth £1bn. The only cloud is the potential translation impact of a strong pound, but on unchanged forecasts of £430m for

the full year, the shares, up 10p at 950p, deserve their forward rating of 18. A firm hold.

Wessex shares remain steady

Wessex Water's interim results yesterday seemed strangely low key after its two-way struggle to take over neighbouring South West Water earlier in the year. With Wessex and rival bidder Severn Trent now effectively prevented by the Government from ever buying rivals, the question on shareholders' minds was what the water groups would do with their cash mountains. Severn Trent led the way yesterday, buying back 10 per cent of its shares. However, in typically conservative fashion, Wessex Water, which has net cash in the bank of £75m, said it had still not made up its mind how to hand back money to investors.

Reading between the lines, the

likelihood is that there will be some kind of buyback or special dividend, coupled with earnings-enhancing acquisitions in the unregulated waste management businesses before next spring. But shareholders will have to wait for the details.

In the meantime, yesterday's half-yearly results were pretty much what

analysts had expected, emphasising the stock's enduring quality as an uninspiring "hold". Pre-tax profits in the six months to the end of September rose by 10.4 per cent to £75.5m, while turnover increased by a strong 7.1 per cent to £128.9m. However earnings from Wessex's 50 per cent owned waste management

operation grew by just £0.2m to £5.3m after a collapse in prices of recycled paper. The 14 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 5.7p was at the lower end of the range for recent water company announcements.

Profits for the full year should reach £144m and be accompanied by a 14 per cent rise in total dividends to 17.3p, giving a forward yield of 6.1 per cent, with the shares down 1.5p at 352.5p. There should be organic growth in the waste business, but investors should look elsewhere for real excitement.

Marston faces three problems

Marston, Thompson & Evershed had a reputation as a steady regional brewer until its surprise purchase of the trendy Pitcher & Piano bar chain in the summer. The £20m price tag, which worked out at £2.2m per outlet including development costs, had analysts spluttering in their pints.

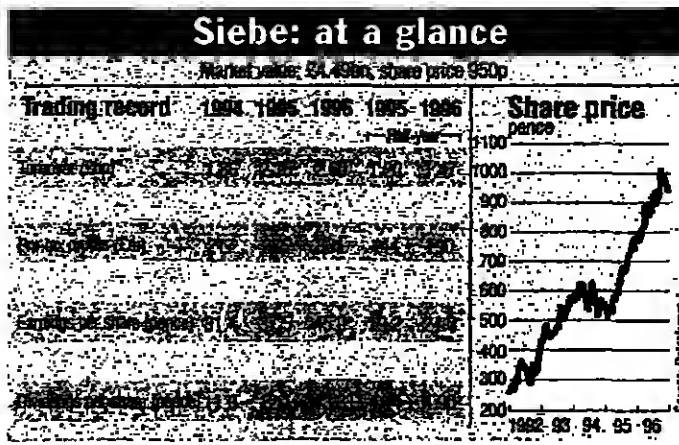
Yesterday's results were the first to include a contribution from the purchase, although group profits just edged ahead 5 per cent to £14.7m in the six months to September. There are eight Pitcher & Piano

outlets, with 11 to open next year and 15 more in each of the following two years. Management says the chain is trading ahead of expectations, with like-for-like sales 16 per cent ahead, driven by better margins and tight cost controls.

But making the Pitcher & Piano deal pay its way is just one of Marston's problems. Its core Pedigree cask ale has been hit by the decline in the sector caused by the rise in popularity of the smooth and creamy nitrokey beers such as Caffrey's and John Smith's Extra Smooth. Pedigree's volumes were down by 8 per cent in the period in a sector off 10 per cent. Pedigree's own nitrokey version, Bitter Smooth Brewed, has only partly limited the damage. Sales of Pedigree's Draughtflow cans have also suffered.

There also seems to be a problem in the managed part of Marston's pubs estate, where like-for-like profits grew by only 1.9 per cent against the 7 to 8 per cent being enjoyed by the brewing majors.

Marston's shares have fallen sharply since their 352p high in May. Down a further 5.5p at 276.5p yesterday, and with analysts forecasting full-year profits of £28.6m, they trade on a forward rating of 12. A justified discount to the sector.



US fad wafts in like a breath of stale smoke

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Peter Rosengard, the life insurance salesman who founded the Comedy Store in London, is at it again. This time he's founded what he claims is the capital's first cigar-smoking club, called The Havana Room.

The idea comes from the US, where all sorts of Hollywood starlets have decided that cigars are for the young and hip, rather than just the old and rich.

Mr Rosengard says he held a party at the trendy Soho club Groucho's last week to launch The Havana Room. "We flew in a cigar roller from Cuba," called Carlos for the occasion," he says.

"We auctioned the first cigar he rolled, and it went for £500. Then we decided to give the money to Carlos. His interpreter said Carlos gets paid \$10 a month back in

Midland introduces its revolutionary Supermarket Trolley Account, you read it here first.

An anonymous employee from Birmingham Midshires Building Society, which is proud of its mutuality, has phoned me to say the society's mission statement has just been changed - with sinister implications.

"The statement used to say our aim was to be the number one building society by 2001. The new statement says that we will be the one to beat on business performance by 2001. Nothing about building society. So are we going to convert to a PLC? After all, we've already got a banking licence through our Western Trust subsidiary."

Obviously Birmingham Midshires's staff need reassuring. Dangerous things, mission statements.

NatWest Group has appointed Achil Racov to the role of chief information technology officer, and according to the former IT consultant, it's not a moment too soon. While Mr Racov has sorted the computer systems at Ulster Bank, Courts South Africa and NatWest UK, his new role gives him a unique headache.

Two big problems face IT people at the moment. The first is programming computers to handle the year 2000, since computers operate on the last two digits and may throw a wobble if presented with "00". Second, the same systems have to be rejigged to deal with EMU.

As for 2000, Mr Racov says: "We started very early on that one. As for EMU, its rules have not yet been clarified by the authorities. It would be very dangerous, however, if EMU and 2000 happened at the same time."

Since the first wave of EMU is scheduled for 1999, and schedules tend to slip, it sounds like Mr Racov and his 5,000-strong army of IT techies at NatWest will have their work cut out.

Speaking of EMU, Solomon Brothers in London has landed a very big fish to help in its preparations.

Dr Gunther Thiemann, who was a senior economist for the investment bank in Frankfurt two years ago before he joined the German Ministry of Economics, is coming to London to head up its EMU research project.

The doctor was one of Germany's representatives on the European Monetary Committee. At least someone knows what it's all about.

John Willcock



New image: The young and hip have turned to cigars

Cuba, so that was equivalent to eight years' income."

This tale sounds like something from the 1980s - proof that the pre-election boomlet is gathering steam.

To the equally trendy Kings Head theatre pub in Islington, north London, for Midland Bank's pre-Christmas press party.

Mark Searles, head of marketing at Midland, decided to hire five comedians from the Comedy Players to provide *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*-type entertainment.

Mr Searles got more than he bargained for, however, when Steven Frost (the large, balding comedian from the Carling Black Label adverts) was chosen to play him on stage. Mr Frost's task was "to invent a brand new financial product". He eventually hit on a bank account based on the pound coins you insert in supermarket trolleys to release them. "We'll pay you 10 per cent interest when you return the trolley," declared Mr Frost, aka Mr Searles. The Midland man took this merrily ragging in good spirit. Remember, when



YOUR first glass

MAY ALSO be your LAST.

Some people try Laphroaig (la-froyg) once, and never again. It's only to be expected. The uncompromising taste of our malt has always led to extremes. Some people try it once, and drink no other whisky again. For them, there's no substitute for Laphroaig's rich, peaty reek. Its sweet, heathery smokiness. Try it. You won't be the first to hate it. Or the last to love it.

LAPHROAIG
no half measures.



http://www.laphroaig.com

Company Results				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Halford's Foodstuffs (F)	386.5m (201.8m)	11.4m (10.1m)	3.00p (3.12p)	2.4p (2.4p)
Kennametal Appliances (A)	97.8m (87.3m)	3.22m (7.4m)	4.3p (11.3p)	3.25p (3.25p)
Marston Thompson (T)	91.38m (86.18m)	14.62m (13.94m)	13.17p (11.19p)	2.7p (2.5p)
Marston's Confectionery (F)	123.1m (98.3m)	4.77m (3.18m)	4.68p (4.28p)	1.84p
Freemantle Industries (F)	88.73m (81.61m)	-1.49m (-21.3m)	-0.50p (-7.24p)	nil
Planet International (I)	602m (503.8m)	21.2m (20.1m)	4.78p (7.08p)	2.1p (2.1p)
Racal Electronics (I)	1.47bn (1.2bn)	190.4m (144.2m)	24p (18.2p)	4.3p (4.4p)
Siebe (I)	128.9m (120.3m)	75.5m (68.4m)	22.1p (20.1p)	5.7p (5p)
Wessex Water (F)				
(F) - Full (I) - Interim (M) - Nine months				

sport

Warne destroys West Indies

Cricket

TONY COZIER
reports from Sydney
Australia 331 & 312-4 dec
West Indies 304 & 215
Australia win by 124 runs

For an hour and 35 minutes yesterday morning a little left-handed batsman with an exquisite sense of timing and his elegant partner responded to an early crisis with the flair that has earned West Indian cricket its elevated status in these parts.

But on either side of a thrilling partnership of 117 between Shivnarine Chanderpaul, the left-hander playing the role Brian Lara might have done, and Carl Hooper that briefly, if unrealistically, sparked the hope of an unlikely victory in the second Test there were collapses that were also typically West Indian.

Three wickets fell for two runs in the first 20 minutes, including Lara's and, after Shane Warne produced one of his magic deliveries two balls before lunch to dismiss Chanderpaul for 71, the last seven West Indies wickets tumbled for 63 and Australia were home 20 minutes before tea.

They have been more disciplined, considerably sharper in the field and palpably more confident than the West Indies and their margin of victory,

124 runs, was far wider than it appeared. It was just one run less than that of the first Test in Brisbane a week earlier and, as then, followed a second innings declaration by Australia's daring captain, Mark Taylor.

It was the first time the West Indies had been beaten in two successive Tests since 1976, also in Australia, and represented a shift in the psychological balance between the teams. The aura of invincibility first breached with Australia's 2-1 triumph in the Caribbean in 1995, has been completely shattered.

"Prior to 1995 they always felt we were going to crack at some stage, but I think that vibe has probably gone," Taylor said afterwards. "We know that if we play well and put them under pressure, we can make them crack." Taylor had bravely challenged the West Indies to total 340 to win and level the series.

When he got out in the overnight session, Sherwin Campbell and Robert Samuels, and Lara feathered an attempted hook off the fast bowler Glenn McGrath, so low to the wicketkeeper Ian Healy that the standing umpire David Shepherd needed confirmation that it was clean from his square leg colleague, Daryl Hair, Australia were already counting their chickens.

Chanderpaul and Hooper made them quickly reassess the situation. Chanderpaul's

counter-attack was uncharacteristic as he tends to be more an accumulator than an aggressor. Let off on a return chance by McGrath when six he proceeded in pepper the boundaries with strokes in every direction. Warne was especially singled out for attention and Taylor was forced to withdraw him after nine overs cost 52.

When he returned, Chanderpaul took two more of his 10 boundaries from full tosses but, two balls before the first interval, could do nothing to keep a fizzing leg-break that spun back a yard and bowled him off his pad. His 71 required only 68 balls. "That ball was the turning point in the day's play," Taylor said. "Chanderpaul played brilliantly, but you've got to back your bowlers and a bloke like Shane Warne can always bowl the sort of ball that turns a game."

Once play resumed there was nothing to stop Australia's advance. Harper, breezing along in Chanderpaul's slipstream before the interval, was becalmed to the extent that he could only add 10 in an hour before Michael Bevan, Warne's left-arm equivalent, deceived him with a bouncing googly that Taylor caught at the second attempt after flicking it up with left footwork. The lower order had no answer to the baffling spin of Warne and Bevan and the Australians were celebrating well before the tea break.

First day, Australia won toss
Australia - First innings 381 & 8 Bennett
West Indies - First innings 304 & 15 Campbell
West Indies - Second innings 215 & 4 dec
(M T G Elliott 78 not out)

WEST INDIES - Second innings
Overnight 27 for 0
S L Campbell b McGrath 15
R G Samuels b McGrath 16
C L Hooper c Taylor b Bevan 57
S Chanderpaul b McGrath 71
C G Lara c Healy b McGrath 29
C L Hooper b McGrath 29
C L Hooper not out 29
R G Samuels not out 29
Total (89.4 overs)
Fall: 1-33 2-33 3-35 4-152 5-157 6-176
7-178 8-178 9-183
Bowling: McGrath 17-7-38-3; Warne 14-0-25-0; G. Brown 1-2-2-0; Warner 27-4-6-25
Umpires: D Shepherd (Eng) and D Hair (Aus).

Sussex's Giddins defence

Alan Caffyn, the Sussex chairman, has defended the county's treatment of Ed Giddins, claiming the drug-taking incident was not the only reason behind the decision to sack him.

In a letter to members, Caffyn responded to criticism that Sussex did not provide help and rehabilitation for the fast bowler. Sussex took the decision to sack Giddins two days after he was found guilty of taking cocaine and banned for 19 months by the Test and County Cricket Board, and Caffyn said: "There is no way that a bowler of Ed's

ability would not have been re-engaged unless there was good reason. The drug incident was just one factor and not the sole reason. I am not, however, prepared to go into details.

"Had Ed asked for help it would have been readily forthcoming. However, he continues to insist that he has never taken drugs of any sort before or since this incident, and that it only happened on this occasion because his drink was spiked. By his own statement Ed has not got a problem and it is, therefore, not possible to provide any help."



England's John Crawley is run out by Grant Flower during yesterday's batting débacle in the opening first-class tour match against Mashonaland in Harare yesterday

Frustrated England A go close

MYLES HODGSON

reports from Canberra
ACT 216 & 320
England A 408 & 123-5
Match drawn

England A produced another impressive performance in falling just one shot away from victory after a frustrating final day in their match with Australian Capital Territory yesterday.

The tourists, who faced a victory target of 129 in 15 overs, finished just six short, on 123 for 5, to be denied their sixth successive victory. Resuming on

140 for 4, Ian Garrity inspired a batting display from the ACT tailenders, batting for more than five hours for 90, which included just four boundaries, to defy the England attack for 76 overs until he was last out as the innings ended on 320.

It left England with a daunting task. Needing a six off the last ball, Lancashire's wicketkeeper Warren Hegg swung and missed to halt the tourists' victory march across Australia.

Garrity was given support from Darryle Macdonald (28) and David Thornton (23) before the England captain, Adam Holoake, ended their second in-

nings with two wickets in as many balls to finish with 4 for 27.

Holoake then opened England's reply with Mark Butcher but fell fourth ball to a brilliant catch from Bruce Hara at midwicket. Butcher hammered 23 off 21 deliveries and Owais Shah hit 29 off 22 deliveries before Michael Vaughan teamed up with Hegg to add 39 in three overs and take England to the brink of victory.

First day of four ACT won toss
ACT - First innings 216 (P 15) 58-8
England A - First innings 408 (M 10) 108-8
ACT - Second innings 123-5
England A - Second innings 123-5
Umpires: J. H. Holoake and J. H. Holoake

St Helens arrange game at Anfield

Rugby League
DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens will spread their gospel to the football end of Merseyside next season by playing a Super League match at Anfield. Last season's double winners will stage their home match against Castleford on 27 April at Liverpool's ground in an attempt to turn the city on to rugby league.

"We are a Merseyside club and we are coming to the capital of Merseyside hoping to convert people to rugby league for their summer break," said the Saints' chief executive, David Howes. "We are sending out a message that we want to become a regional side. We see this becoming an annual event, although there is no hidden agenda of merger or ground-sharing."

Saints hope an attractive fixture on a weekend without Premiership football will pull in potential fans from Liverpool as well as their own average support of 10,000. It will be the first league game that Anfield has hosted, although there were more than 17,000 at the ground for the Charity Shield between Wigan and Widnes in 1989 and 20,000 attended the World Club Challenge between Wigan and Penrith two years later.

Saints' Great Britain full-back Steve Prescott, who played football there as a schoolboy before concentrating on his rugby career, predicted that he and his team-mates would thrive on the atmosphere at Anfield. "Most of the Saints players are Liverpool fans and I think everyone will enjoy playing here," he said.

Liverpool's chief executive, Peter Robinson, is also looking forward to the match. "We are delighted to have this close link with St Helens," he said. "They have shown themselves to be an extremely progressive club."

Saints welcomed their own signing from the Auckland Warriors, the prop forward Julian O'Neill, who was taken from Mochoe's airport to Anfield to take part in the launch.



INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

TOP FIFTY LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 24 NOVEMBER

POS.	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Mr John Cook	Southall FC	441
2	Mr S A Scott	Foreign Backbone	441
3	Ms C M Down	The Dark Horse	434
4	Mr Andrew Burham	Wimbledon Stupid Heads	434
5	Paul Richardson	Cheltenham Storm	434
6	David Robinson	Double D	433
7	Mr J. McCrossen	Week Ten Error	432
8	Ian Boyle		431
9	Adam Hogg	Black Horse	429
10	Mr David Ashton	Tiger Lodgers	429
11	Mr S King	Crested Alexander	428
12	Mr C Britton	Maple Mousse E	429
13	Mr P Sral	Dazzle Boys	428
14	Mr D J Robinson	Thank for England	428
15	Mr S. Wals	The Underdog	428
16	Mr M Dews	That's Handy Hardy	427
17	Mr J M Sale	Hot City	426
18	Mr Chris Scott	Bruce Lee FC	425
19	Mr G Lake	Master of Eggs	425
20	Husan Sakhray	I'm off to France United	424
21	Peter Frankland	John Park	424
22	Mr R Northcroft	I Know Your Wife	424
23	Mr S Lawrence	Team's Little Parade	423
24	Mr Steven Hart	Kees Cowboys	423
25	Keith Watson	Remembrance Observances	423
26	Mr D. Edmondson	Edmo United	423
27	Steve Payne	Memorable Moments	422
28	Jake Gibbons	Champagne Supernova	422
29	Mr Paul Glazard	Geometric Shapes	422
30	Scott Lynett	Hoo Ho Serenaders	422
31	Mr Steven Payne	No Future in Error	421
32	Mr M Crossland	Osney C. Lyons	421
33	Francis Henderson	Secondary Cells	421
34	Andrew Boysek	Great Old Dead	421
35	Nick Knight	Knight's Mark	420
36	Graham Mur	Clean Sheet FC	419
37	Andrew Clark	Chalk Unseen	419
38	Joe Cahill	The Fat Lady Sings	419
39	Paul Hoggins	Norwich Stars	418
40	Mr P Sral	Dunlin is the Best	418
41	Steve Shipley	See Against Insurance	418
42	Mr R Jones	RJ Three	418
43	Mr S. Reynolds	Graveyard	418
44	Mr S Woolley	Independent Boys	418
45	Barry Lee	Lee's Army	418
46	Simon Council	Top Boys	418

THE INDEPENDENT

Today we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below shows four scores. The Week 16 (Wk16) column lists all points scored in matches played between Monday 25 November - Sunday 1 December inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 1 December.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 24 November.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions are as previously published and are available upon request.

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 1 DECEMBER; WEEK 16 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 25 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE																									
WMB					B					A					Ov					WMB					B					A					Ov				
GOAL KEEPERS																																							
300	Seaman	ARS	0	1.0	477	Ruddock	LIV	0	1.0	649	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	886	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	900	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	901	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
301	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	478	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	650	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	887	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	902	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	903	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
302	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	479	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	651	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	888	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	904	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	905	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
303	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	480	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	652	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	889	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	906	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	907	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
304	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	481	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	653	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	890	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	908	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	909	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
305	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	482	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	654	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	891	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	910	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	911	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
306	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	483	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	655	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	892	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	912	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	913	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
307	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	484	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	656	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	893	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	914	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	915	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
308	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	485	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	657	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	894	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	916	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	917	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
309	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	486	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	658	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	895	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	918	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	919	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
310	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	487	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	659	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	896	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	920	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	921	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
311	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	488	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	660	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	897	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	922	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	923	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
312	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	489	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	661	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	898	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	924	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	925	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
313	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	490	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	662	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	899	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	926	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	927	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
314	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	491	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	663	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	900	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	928	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	929	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
315	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	492	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	664	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	901	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	930	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	931	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
316	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	493	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	665	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	902	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	932	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	933	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
317	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	494	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	666	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	903	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	934	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	935	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
318	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	495	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	667	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	904	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	936	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	937	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
319	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	496	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	668	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	905	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	938	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	939	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
320	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	497	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	669	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	906	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	940	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	941	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
321	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	498	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	670	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	907	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	942	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	943	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
322	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	499	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	671	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	908	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	944	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	945	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
323	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	500	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	672	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	909	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	946	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	947	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
324	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	501	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	673	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	910	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	948	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	949	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
325	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	502	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	674	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	911	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	950	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	951	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
326	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	503	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	675	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	912	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	952	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	953	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
327	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	504	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	676	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	913	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	954	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	955	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
328	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	505	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	677	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	914	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	956	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	957	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
329	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	506	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	678	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	915	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	958	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	959	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
330	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	507	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	679	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	916	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	960	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	961	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
331	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	508	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	680	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	917	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	962	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	963	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
332	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	509	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	681	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	918	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	964	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	965	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
333	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	510	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	682	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	919	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	966	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	967	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
334	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	511	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	683	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	920	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	968	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	969	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
335	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	512	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	684	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	921	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	970	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	971	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
336	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	513	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	685	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	922	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	972	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	973	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
337	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	514	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	686	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	923	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	974	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	975	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
338	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	515	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	687	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	924	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	976	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	977	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
339	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	516	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	688	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	925	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	978	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	979	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
340	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	517	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	689	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	926	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	980	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	981	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
341	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	518	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	690	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	927	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	982	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	983	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
342	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	519	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	691	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	928	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	984	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	985	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
343	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	520	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	692	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	929	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	986	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	987	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
344	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	521	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	693	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	930	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	988	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	989	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
345	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	522	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	694	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	931	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	990	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	991	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
346	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	523	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	695	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	932	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	992	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	993	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
347	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	524	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	696	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	933	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	994	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	995	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
348	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	525	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	697	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	934	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	996	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	997	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
349	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	526	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	698	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	935	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	998	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	999	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0										
350	Bonfield	AV	0	1.0	527	Saunders	LIV	0	1.0	699	Sloman	DER	0	1.0	936	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0	1000	Thompson	CHE	0	1.0															

PHILLIPS

GOAL KEEPER

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE					
WMB					B					A					Ov				
400	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46					
401	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46					
402	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46					
403	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46					
404	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46					
405	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46					
406	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46					
407	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46					
408	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46					
409	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46					
410	Bonfield	ARS	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4	46	4						

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IN0412

Pienaar signed up by ambitious Saracens

Pienaar: Two-year deal

Memory of Tucker inspires Oxford

replaces George Gregan at scrum-half and the hooker Marco Caputo relegates Michael Foley to replacement duty.

AUSTRALIA: (v. South Africa, Tuguehuem, Saturday): M. Butler (New South Wales); S. Lister (Australian Capital Territory); J. Little (Queensland); T. Moran (Queensland, capt.); D. Campese (NSW); P. Howard (ACT); S. Payne (NSW); G. Cronley (Queensland); J. C. A. (ACT); J. C. (NSW); G. Giffin (ACT); T. Gavin (NSW); G. Meers (NSW); I. Finnegan (ACT); M. Britel (NSW); I. Wilson (Queensland). Replacements: D. Harbert (Queensland); G. Touma (NSW); S. Macdonald (ACT); J. Robinson (ACT); A. March (NSW); M. Fryer (Queensland).

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Aiming for the future: Reminders of a noble past flank Robert Taylor as he goes about his work in Fulton's gun shop, Bisley Photograph: Peter J...

Shooting pains of change



at large

new lino about eight years ago and someone came in and said: 'I hope you're not changing the shop.' When we took up that old lino, there was a copy of *The Times* from 1888 underneath, with a headline about the 'Irish problem'."

in a time warp, but Milano says things have changed. "It was much more relaxed in the early days, and not so competitive. We struggle to keep up with the demands of shooters now. Though the bull's-eye is smaller, they expect to hit it every

"I'm determined that Fulton's will survive but I have to admit I am worried about the future. The end of shooting? It seems unthinkable, but it could happen." No wonder the property values are hovering.

TURN TO *Money*

THE INDEPENDENT

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**TODAY'S
NUMBER**
28

The votes by which Laura Davies beat Australia's Karrie Webb to win the Golf Writers' Association of America's female Player of the Year award.

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HOUSE OF FRASE

هكذا من الاجل

Keegan's Trent trip is stark lesson

Football
SIMON TURNBULL

Perhaps it is just as well that the most immediate challenge facing Kevin Keegan and his out-of-control Newcastle United team happens to be a fixture against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on Monday night.

It is not merely that the Magpies have stooped so low, in terms of their recent form, that a trip to the Premier's basement club promises to provide a much-needed pick-me-up. The visit will offer a reminder of the harsh realities of life in the latter stages of European competition.

Forest, it seems strange to recall, were UEFA Cup quarter-finalists last season. They overcame French opponents to reach the last eight, but after beating Lyon and then escaping from the lion's den of the Olympic Stadium with only a 2-1 defeat, Frank Clark's men were mauled 5-1 by Bayern Munich on the banks of the Trent.

Having been outclassed for 80 minutes on Tuesday night by a Metz team that rates as not even second division in the grand European scheme of things, a sobering measure of trepidation has entered Newcastle's thinking towards their Continental adventure. As Keegan put it: "You look at the teams left and you know if we play that badly again we'll go out. For long periods against Metz we were about as bad as we can be."

Keegan at least has three months in which to revitalise his uncharacteristically languid side before the first leg of the quarter-finals. In midfield in particular, the creative spark has gone missing since the scorching victories against Manchester United and Fenerbahce in October.

The draw in Geneva next Wednesday will, alongside Newcastle's, feature the names of Internazionale, Monaco, Brondby, Schalke 04, Valencia, Tenerife and Anderlecht.

Tenerife might suit Keegan. The Spaniards are coached by Jupp Heynckes, who could be excused for conceding defeat at the very sight of Newcastle's manager. He was in the Borussia Mönchengladbach teams beaten by Liverpool, and the inspirational Keegan, in the UEFA Cup final of 1973 and in the Champions' Cup final four years later.

Andersch, though, would hold the least fears for Newcastle. They beat the Belgians 2-1 in Brussels in August.

Whoever they face, Newcastle will have to play the first leg without the man who scored the goals against Metz. Faustino Asprilla having been yellow-carded after removing his shirt and holding it on a corner flag in celebration. The Colombian also ruled out of his country's World Cup qualifier in Venezuela next week after suffering a hamstring injury in Tuesday's match.

"Maybe sometimes we should give a yellow card to the ref," David Ginola said. "We have to live with celebration. That is life. Life is too miserable sometimes." It certainly has been on Tyneside of late.

Smith may lead British Whitbread challenge

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

A multi-million pound British-based challenge for next September's Whitbread round-the-world race is expected to be announced within the next few days.

The tobacco company, Gallaher, is thought to be planning a project, costing at least £5m, which could include the recruitment of the leading British skipper, Lawrie Smith. The boat would be called Silk Cut, which is one of the leading

brands produced by Gallaher in the United Kingdom.

The deal would be an important boost to British sailing, which in recent years has struggled to find adequate financial support to fund entries in major international events such as the Whitbread and the America's Cup.

A major complication in the plan, however, is that Smith is already the skipper of an entry for next year's Whitbread. In June this year he signed a contract with EF, a Swedish company selling language and educational products around

the world and which is investing £10m in a two-toy entry for the 1997-98 race.

Gallaher wants to recruit Smith because it sees him as the best skipper in Britain. Smith is highly respected by his competitors and turned around the Intrum Justitia challenge in the last Whitbread. The negotiations with EF are understood to have centred on Gallaher buying into the Swedes' design and technology programme. EF has been using two 1993 boats, Intrum Justitia and Galicia, to choose crew and test sails. Masts and keels are a separate programme.

EF is also building two new, Bruce Farr-designed boats in Sweden, one for an all-male crew at present skippered by Smith, the other for an all-woman crew. It is understood that the Silk Cut yacht, also designed by Bruce Farr, is being built in Australia.

While EF does not want to lose Smith, who skippered Rothmans in 1989-90 and another tobacco-sponsored yacht, Fortuna, in 1993-94 until it retired, the Swedes are likely to receive a substantial compensation in return for releasing him from his contract.

If the deal goes ahead, Smith may bring some of EF's British crew with him. Only four weeks ago EF announced that four Britons, Gordon Maguire, Neal McDonald, Adrian Stead and Steve Hayles, had joined their team. Despite earlier claims that they had signed written contracts, it is now understood that they have only verbal agreements. Smith would almost certainly want to retain some of his core crew in the event of any move.

Signs that the rush is on to announce the Silk Cut entry in the race have been seen this week

in Hamble. The 1993 Whitbread boat, Dolphin & Youth, which until recently had been the entry of the Sussex Challenge, is being painted there in Silk Cut colours. It is thought the yacht will be the centrepiece on the forecourt at Earts Court for the London Boat Show, which opens in four weeks' time.

Gallaher may even be preparing to announce plans to sponsor entries in the next two Whitbreads. As an existing sponsorship, this could circumvent any possible future legislation banning cigarette promotion.

EF, meanwhile, would have to move smartly to find a replacement for Smith. The Swedes spoke earlier this year to the 1993-94 race winner, the New Zealander Ross Field, about the possibility of his being skipper, but instead decided on the man who had been their No 1 choice throughout.

If Smith does leave, the favourite to replace him is the San Francisco-based America's Cup skipper, Paul Cayard. However, the Frenchman, Marc Pajot, could also figure, along with two or three others.

Rowell returns to Underwood

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWITT

Tony Underwood had double cause for celebration yesterday. Not only did Jack Rowell, the England coach, recall the Newcastle wing to a 23-man squad for the international with Argentina on Saturday week, but he also waited until Jonah Lomu was well out of the way before doing so. Signs of relief all round.

Underwood has not played Test rugby since conceding four tries to his New Zealand nemesis in Cape Town 18 months ago. It remains to be seen whether Rowell completes his rehabilitation by giving him a starting place - he will name his line-up on Monday - but the 27-year-old's pace would be of undeniable value to an England back division worryingly short of that all-important commodity.

If Rowell feels inclined to tinker with the side after last

weekend's defeat at the hands of the New Zealand Barbarians - and he should more than tinker with the midfield - Jeremy Guscott remains the most likely addition, possibly at the expense of Will Carling. But Underwood is now in a prime position to challenge Adebayo Adebayo for the left-wing berth and it will be no surprise to see him back in the limelight in time for the start of the Five Nations.

Although Underwood has played most of his international rugby on the right wing, it would be savagely hard on Rowell to turn his back on Jon Sleightholme, who produced a class finish to score one of England's two tries against the New Zealanders. Besides, Sleightholme needs his Test place more than most because it is the only way he can get a game; his club selectors at Bath have again preferred Jason Robinson for this weekend's league match with Harlequins.

England also named three contrasting A teams for next week's hectic second-string schedule. Three games in four days against Argentina, the Junior Springboks and Queensland give the selectors ample opportunity to weigh up the available talent and the programme offers important opportunities to a handful of outstanding prospects.

Richard Hill, the Saracens' open-side flanker, faces both the Pumas and the Australians and two strong performances could persuade Rowell to juggle his senior back row, which lacks a natural breakaway element. The same is true at outside-half. Paul Gerson, last year's Test hand-off, gets a chance to impress along with Rob Liley of Leicester and, intriguingly, Mark Maplet of Gloucester.

Organisers of the Heineken European Cup have confirmed that Leicester's semi-final with holders Toulouse will take place at Welford Road on 4 January while Brive entertain Cardiff 24 hours later. If the final turns out to be an all-French affair, it will probably be held in Bordeaux on 25 January. Any other pairing will mean a final at the National Stadium in Cardiff on the same date.

ENGLAND SQUAD: 15 Argentina, Twickenham, 14 Dec; 16 Scotland, 15 Dec; 17 Wales, 16 Dec; 18 France, 17 Dec; 19 Ireland, 18 Dec; 20 Italy, 19 Dec; 21 South Africa, 20 Dec; 22 New Zealand, 21 Dec; 23 Argentina, 22 Dec; 24 Scotland, 23 Dec; 25 Wales, 24 Dec; 26 France, 25 Dec; 27 Ireland, 26 Dec; 28 Italy, 27 Dec; 29 South Africa, 28 Dec; 30 New Zealand, 29 Dec; 31 Argentina, 30 Dec; 32 Scotland, 31 Dec; 33 Wales, 1 Jan; 34 France, 2 Jan; 35 Ireland, 3 Jan; 36 Italy, 4 Jan; 37 South Africa, 5 Jan; 38 New Zealand, 6 Jan; 39 Argentina, 7 Jan; 40 Scotland, 8 Jan; 41 Wales, 9 Jan; 42 France, 10 Jan; 43 Ireland, 11 Jan; 44 Italy, 12 Jan; 45 South Africa, 13 Jan; 46 New Zealand, 14 Jan; 47 Argentina, 15 Jan; 48 Scotland, 16 Jan; 49 Wales, 17 Jan; 50 France, 18 Jan; 51 Ireland, 19 Jan; 52 Italy, 20 Jan; 53 South Africa, 21 Jan; 54 New Zealand, 22 Jan; 55 Argentina, 23 Jan; 56 Scotland, 24 Jan; 57 Wales, 25 Jan; 58 France, 26 Jan; 59 Ireland, 27 Jan; 60 Italy, 28 Jan; 61 South Africa, 29 Jan; 62 New Zealand, 30 Jan; 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ADRIAN WARNER
reports from Munich

Tim Henman earned £2,500 a minute yesterday as his outstanding year continued with a 6-3, 6-3 defeat of Michael Stich in the first round of the Grand Slam Cup in Munich.

Henman, who earned a place as a reserve at the tournament by reaching the Wimbledon quarter-finals and was then handed a chance to play after late withdrawals, picked up £16,000 for his win. In just 63 minutes,

the 22-year-old Henman made more than twice his earnings for the whole of last year.

"Don't get me wrong. I prefer to have the money than not have it, but it's not the reason why I play the game," he said.

"I've always said it's more my hobby than my occupation. It's nice to play in a tournament like this where there are obviously huge amounts of money at stake. But I don't think the way I played today was as if I was just focused on the money. I was just happy to get on with things."

At 29 in the world rankings, Henman is 13 places below the

28-year-old Stich and has nowhere near his opponent's experience, yet he completely outplayed him. The German has not only won Wimbledon, but has been runner-up at the US Open and only this year was the beaten finalist at the French Open.

"I was very pleased. I hit with Jim Courier yesterday for an hour and a half. That was the first time I had played in two weeks so to come out and hit the ball as well as I did today was a big bonus. It was sort of a nice surprise for me," Henman said.

"I wanted to try to concentrate on my own serve. The first

couple of games I thought were important, then I started to create a few opportunities on his serve and then I took them. I feel great."

Stich, who has been hampered by injuries throughout the season, said: "I am not complaining. I am glad I played. Tim was very good, he didn't have a lot of mistakes. He gave me a hard time."

Hennman went on court yesterday without a trace of nervousness. He had not hit a ball in earnest since beating Greg Rusedski in the final of the British National Champi-

onships at Telford more than two weeks ago, yet he played as if he had never been away. It was his most impressive victory since beating Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the French Open champion, in the first round at Wimbledon in June.

However, a month ago he was not even a reserve for this event which consists of the 16 players who have done best in the four Grand Slam tournaments during the year. Henman, having reached the last eight at Wimbledon and the last 16 at the US Open, was in 20th place.

Then Thomas Muster and

Stefan Edberg withdrew, leaving Henman as second reserve. And it was only Monday that Henman learned he was in the tournament proper following further withdrawals by Americans Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Todd Martin.

Henman might count himself fortunate... but he took his chance well, playing with increasing confidence both from the back of the court and at the net. Even when he double-faulted on his first match point at 5-3 in the second set, Henman did not lose his cool. He merely forced Stich to hit a forehand

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PETER JARDINE
reports from Auxerre

Richard Gough wants to bow out a winner in Auxerre tonight as he makes his final fling with Rangers in European competition. Gough is desperate to pick up one more victory in Europe as Walter Smith's depleted side bid goodbye to the Champions' League.

The 34-year-old captain is poised to leave Ibrox at the end of the season and is fighting against a leg injury to make what could be his last appearance in Europe. "This will be my last match in the Champions' League, my last in Europe for Rangers and probably my last in European competition," said Gough, who has been linked with moves to Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton.

Despite the fact that £1m worth of talent is back home in Glasgow - Brian Laudrup, Joachim Bjorklund and Jorg Albers are injured and Paul Gascoigne is sidelined - the departing Rangers can claim their second £500,000 UEFA win bonus. "We are playing for pride again," Gough said. "People are making a lot out of the players who are missing but those who came in against Grasshopper in the last match did well and can do so again."

Rangers are out of the quarter-final running after four opening defeats hit Guy Roux's Ayrerrie, who will be backed by a 21,000 capacity crowd, need only a draw to complete their Champions' League fairy-tale.

"We can still affect who goes through and I still see it as an important match," added Gough, who took a knock in Sunday's 3-0 win at Aberdeen.

"We must meet the challenge and not let ourselves drop from the recent good run we've had."

Gough has known highs in Europe since arriving at Rangers from Tottenham in October 1987, as well as lows in Athens, Turin and Zurich over

the past three seasons. In the spring of 1988 he scored against Steaua Bucharest at Ibrox in a European Cup quarter-final before Rangers lost 3-2 on aggregate, but it was in 1992-93 that he led the club to one of their best Continental runs.

Gough captained the side on a 10-match unbeaten sequence as Marseille pipped them for a place in the European Cup final against Milan. "Richard has been tremendous for us over the years and obviously that doesn't just apply to Europe," said Smith, the manager at Ibrox.

While Gough should make it, Smith's selection has other doubts, given the absence of so

many top names. Trevor Steven, usually in a Scottish television studio on European nights, is a candidate for a starting place after only six full league games in the last 18 months. The youngest Greg Shields should also play.

Ian Ferguson, Charlie Miller and Derek McInnes are pushing for midfield places but Smith will not be tempted to give Alan McLaren his first game in six months. McLaren has been out since the Scottish Cup final last May because of knee surgery. He will be on the bench at best.

"I've not even had a reserve match yet and the first game is the real test," said the Scotland

salary and £20m to spend, Eriksson will now try to accelerate his departure from Sampdoria, where he still has six months of his contract to serve. However, Blackburn insiders believe that the Swede may even be in charge as early as next Monday. Rovers want him to join them soon as they are aware that Lazio and Ajax are also interested in him.

Blackburn's caretaker manager, Tony Parkes, who does not want the job on a permanent basis, has been kept informed of developments and is likely to stay in a leading post.

live reserve games still are piling for a place. I'd love to place Celtic on 2 January as I made my Rangers debut in an Old Firm game."

Smith's target tonight is another victory after Rangers broke their duck with a 2-1 home success against Grasshopper last month.

Auxerre have selection problems of their own with almost half the team that won 2-1 in Glasgow in September likely to miss out. Tarbo West is suspended while injuries will deny Roux the services of goalkeeper Lionel Charbonnier, Thomas Denaud, Sabri Lamouchi and

No. 3161, Wednesday 4 December By Asquith

The crossword puzzle grid is 15 squares wide and 15 squares high. The starting positions for the words are indicated by numbers 1 through 27. The grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The numbers are placed in the top-left corner of the grid, marking the beginning of the words to be filled in.

<p>1 Fittingly, big waves from perambulators (10)</p> <p>8 Diamonds, perhaps, as ju- nior fashion? (5,4)</p> <p>9 Born lecher has changed party (4)</p> <p>10 Swann has a limit (6)</p> <p>11 Introductions to Chopin's works, for example (8)</p> <p>13 Character of O'Neill's cine- ma production (6)</p> <p>14 Riding-master oddly against the current? (8)</p> <p>15 Can rouse into being lus- trous when taken from bed? (8)</p> <p>16 With rock yet more grit- ty, it is said (6)</p> <p>21 Twisted vines deteriorate? Fancyl (8)</p> <p>23 More work in ideal envi- ronment (6)</p>	<p>26 Preparation for the night (9)</p> <p>27 No promises broken in clergyman's exchange of first letters (10)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOWN</p> <p>1 Stock sheet has a tear in it (9)</p> <p>2 Instructed, say, in tense (4)</p> <p>3 Surface rocks from work in courts, possibly? (8)</p> <p>4 Mark left on early murder victim (5)</p> <p>5 Settle round university with the rest (7)</p> <p>6 Game for one show of intolerance (10)</p> <p>7 Petition approved in vine production? (6)</p> <p>12 Almost sure to come out in the spring (10)</p>
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QUATRE FIDELITY
 A L G S N I D A
 DELIGHTED GLOOM
 A E B O I H L N
 BUGBEAR HATLINE
 O E A E S R N
 UPSET DECANIER
 T E E I O P H
 L T R E T Y C P S E
 E A A A A A A A
 ELEGIAC JOURNAL
 O B N Y E R O B
 LLAMA INCENTIVE
 A N L V T A N N
 MEASURER FLIGHT

MARK BALDWIN
reports from Harare
England 175-9 v
Mashonaland

England's hapless top-order disintegrated against Mombasa yesterday, and only Robert Croft's deft 66 not out enabled the tourists to finish a weather-interrupted first day here on 175 for 9.

Understandably, David Lloyd's patience is wearing thin. "Good players playing poorly," was the English coach's initial reaction to a day which began with the Sussex youngster James Kirtley sparking off a startling English slump to 27 for 4.

Lloyd praised Kirtley's effort in losing for 44 but added: "Overall, they have had an ordinary bowling attack and I expect our performances to improve, and to improve quick."

"We were too tentative and we should be dominating more. Croft was the only one today

who looked to do that. Kirtley has always impressed me. I picked him for the TCCB XI against South Africa A last August when he took eight wickets and helped win the match. But our batsmen are far better players than that and we have to start hitting our straps soon. You know a batsman who is poor batting day. I'm not worried by it, though. We had two goalless run-outs and that's just annoying. I'm frustrated by this display and there are basic areas we have to work on."

England badly needed a good day to their opening four-day fixture after kicking off the tour with a one-day defeat against a President's XI on Sunday. What they got instead was an embarrassment to rank alongside some of the many helpo-par England performances of recent memory.

Kirtley has been in Zimbabwe since October and for the past week has been helping

England prepare by taking a full part in practice sessions.

Today, signing the ball significantly, he removed Mike Atherton and Nasser Hussain in his new-ball burst and then returned after a session was lost to rain to earn himself two further scalp.

He said: "I have mixed feelings, to be honest. I wanted to do well for myself, but when the Tests and one-dayers against Zimbabwe start there will only be one team that I will be supporting, and that's England."

"I've enjoyed helping England out over the past week and I'm very pleased to have dismissed the England captain. But I would have been just as happy about that if he'd got 100."

Kirtley, a late replacement for the injured Eddie Brandreth, last week marked his debut for Lancashire by taking a hat-trick and having figures of 5 for 56. Today he would have finished with another five-wicket haul.

Cum gratia, Canary Wharf, London E14 5F

Back lanes travelled from History

December 1996 (revisited as a companion with

haul but for dropped catches when Phil Tufnell had yet to score and with Croft on 49.

Kirtley could even have had Atherton for a first-ball duck as England's out-of-forms captain survived a big low shout, ran the next ball down to third man for two, but then ticked the third delivery he faced to the wicket-keeper, Donald Campbell.

Alec Stewart chopped into his stumps against Bryan Stanger when trying to withdraw his bat in the next over, the fourth of the innings, and England were suddenly 7 for 3 when Hussain did exactly the same thing to Kirtley in the 21-year-old's following over.

Nick Knight then ran himself out by charging back for an ill-advised third run and being sent off by Graham Thorpe, while John Crawley split a composed 25 when he too was responsible for his own run-out.

By this time Thorpe had carved to point after scoring 35

and Crawley, dabbing the ball out on the off side, perished to a fine piece of fiddling from Paul Strang after setting off for a suicidal single that was quite correctly rebuffed by Croft.

Andy Caddick did at least offer a few more blows in support of Croft, who then celebrated past a valuable half-century after seeing Tufnell dropped at second slip.

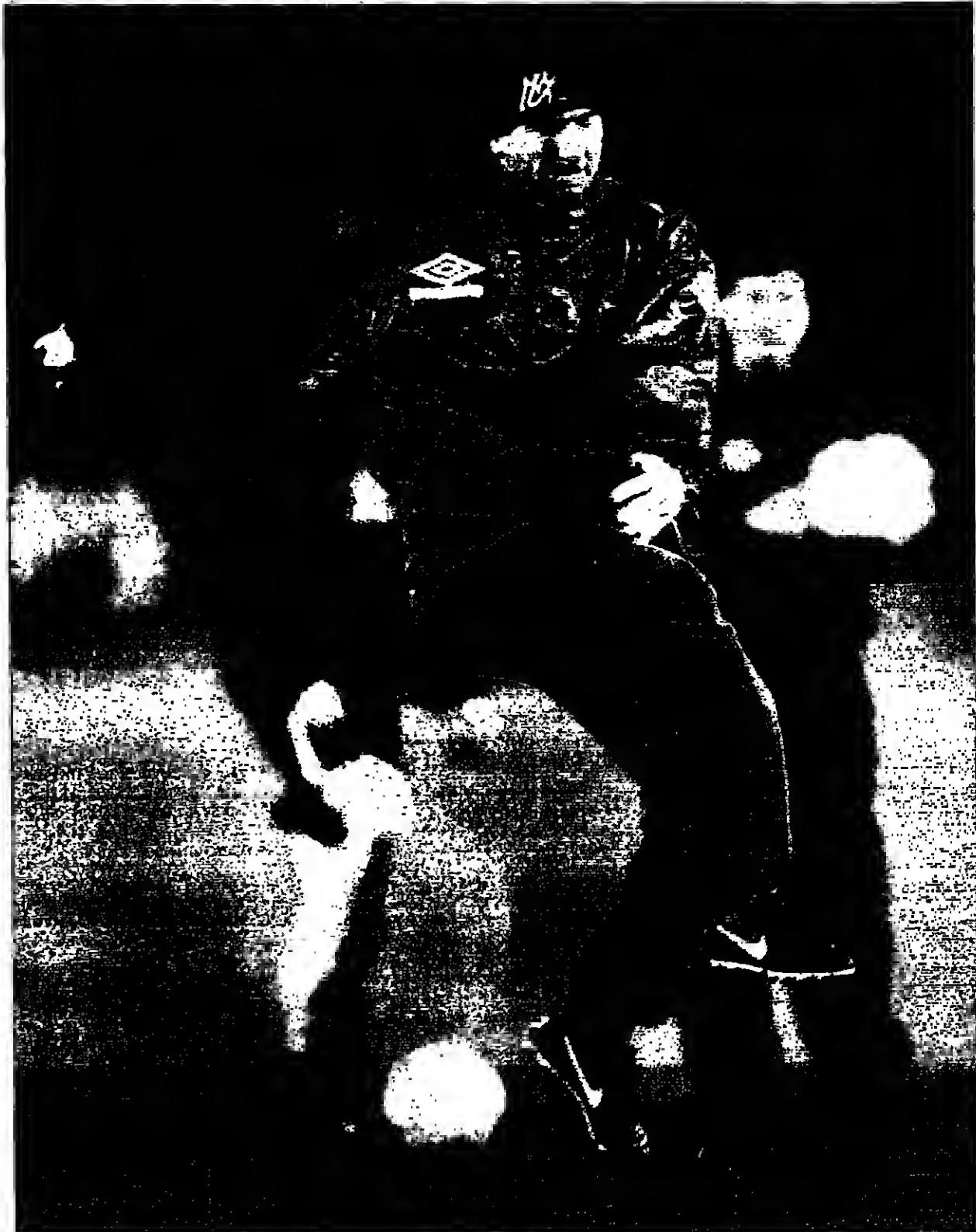
Croft hooked and drove Bryan Strang for four and six from successive balls and had scored 21 runs from two overs when, somewhat incongruously, he accepted the offer of an early finish because of poor light.

First day of four, England won toss

19th August, 1997, Bristol
N V Knight run out 6
M A Atherton C D R Campbell to Herley 2
N Hirst 1
N Hirst 1
G Hirst 2
G Hirst 1
R D B Croft 58
R D B Croft 58
A Caddick 1
A Caddick C D R Campbell to Brent 1
A Caddick to Brent 3
A Caddick to Brent 3
Extras (R 45, M5) 13
Total (289, 82 overs) 175
England 175, 289, 82, 10-5-63, 8-58, 7-74
12-12, 9-145.

Wicket-keepers: D L Houghton, S P Carey, O W Jones, D J Gower, TD J Campbell, C A Weather, O Maramba, S A Verrill.

Kirtley key to England's collapse



Manchester United's Eric Cantona becomes acclimatised to conditions in Vienna during yesterday's training session before tonight's vital Champions' League match against Rapid Vienna. Glenn Moore, page 37; photograph, Empics

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